



THE SERENITY TIMES

The monthly newsletter

of the Darwin district

JUNE 2021

Tradition 6. Long Form.

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim.

We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual.

An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business.

Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups.

Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name.

Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them.

For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred.

But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. – and medically supervised.

While an A.A. group may co-operate with anyone, such co-operation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied.

An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.



Darwin District

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

Darwin District Office

Nightcliff Community Centre
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Website: aadarwin.org.au

Office Hours:

11am-2pm Monday-Saturday
Mick G (Acting District Committee Member)

Pat M (Treasurer)

Susan B (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

The next District meeting for committee members is scheduled for Wednesday 9TH June at 7pm, this is a quarterly meeting via Zoom. All GSR's are invited.

The next Area meeting is Sunday 15th August 2021 9am 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, and would love to print your story or a story about your group, service, steps anything that will encourage others.

Public Information Update

Treasurer DDO: Pat M

FINANCIAL REPORT:

At the end of April, we retain a healthy balance (cash and bank account) of \$6,083.70. We recorded a loss for the month of \$551.21 compared to a surplus of \$53.40 for the same month last year. The difference is attributable to lower group contributions and the purchase of a new filing cabinet for the office. Year to date we are showing a loss of \$838.28 but this includes the donation of \$2,000 GSO in December.

Petty Cash/Literature Cash Sales The petty cash tin was counted at the end of the month at \$63.35. There was no petty cash expended during the month hence the balance remains the same as last month. Caroline is now keeping the float to \$50.00 and will advise if this needs to be adjusted.

Acting DCM: Mick G

Welcome and thank you for attending this month's Darwin District Office Meeting. It is with great appreciation for your time and diligence in your service work, in maintaining the functional operation of AA Darwin that I thank all of you. We do this work to support the AA GROUPS of Darwin, in their "singleness of purpose", that is, so that they may better carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

At times, I need to remember that it is my duty in service work to support, connect, direct, and inform the AA GROUPS of Darwin so that **those Groups and members can DO THE WORK.**

It is not my responsibility to do the groups work, it is my responsibility to serve the groups so that they can better do their work.

This is the essence of Service Work in Alcoholics Anonymous.

The positions on the Darwin District Committee are generally classified as "Coordinators". These positions, as are all Service Work positions, are to work for the groups in supporting, organising, and informing them with the information THEY require to do THEIR work.

I often find that most groups think that the Darwin District Office and Coordinators are the only ones who need to do this work.

To the current Co-ordinators, thanks you, as you do, do ALL the work.

Is there a group/s out there who will help our Corrections and Treatment Facilities Co-ordinator in his job.?

This coordinator has organised the facilities, time and days – are there groups who will commit to, let's say "one month" every 6months to attend these facilities as coordinated.

Are there groups who can at least have one member attend the Public Information Committee? Dan T is working inventively and with great vigour, but how many at the last PI meeting? Dan and an Alice Springs member. Two people – is this the best we can do in our sobriety?

Public Information is the "well spring", "the life blood" of every AA member and AA group – IT is THE REASON we got sober, it is HOW we stay sober. PI is the primary driver, in "carrying the message".

Office maintenance – 1 hour per week, vacuum, dust, wipe, fix, clean empty. Is there not one group, not one member who cannot afford this time for office maintenance coordinator. Office Coordinator – manage, maintain, and support the office and phone volunteers.

Your Office is working because of the commitment of a handful of members, some fulfilling two and even three positions, which is unsustainable.

YOU, the Groups, the members, ARE THE OFFICE, we serve you. If that is to be maintained for the alcoholic who is still to find AA, then that is yours and my spiritual and physical responsibility.

Regards

Mickg (acting DCM)

BILL W CAMP

Mark P reported on members visit to Douglas Daly Tourist Park on February 27th to meet new owners Leanne and Terry. Campsite was agreed, as well as adjoining powered sites.

It was agreed that a further visit was a good idea. This will be on **Saturday June 19th**. Mark P to coordinate. Next Meeting will be Friday June 25th at 6.30pm. Pandanas Room, Nightcliff Community Centre Buhinia St Nightcliff.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Darwin District PI Coordinator Report. Dan T

Greetings GSO's The Darwin District committee have decided on a fairly large Public Information initiative which we are hoping will see our Public Information notice shown on the back of a Darwin bus for 6 months. All Darwin busses share all their different routes, so if we can pull this off, our bus will be doing the rounds of the whole Darwin, Palmerston, and Rural area wherever there is a bus service at various times, as well as all of the bus depots. We are hoping to get this done by around the end of October, so it is out and about for the duration of the Festive Season and New Year's period. A great time for rock-bottoms! I am sure you will agree this is an excellent mobile public information announcement, but it does not come cheap. With the charity / Government rate that we were able to get, we are still looking at an outlay of \$4995.00 for the 6-month period inclusive of production and installation

costs. If we choose to keep it going after 6 months, it will be a \$160 per week outlay from the district, which works out to around \$10 per week per group. The district is hoping to raise at least 50% of this from groups and members if we can. A few members have already agreed to "sponsor one week" but we all got behind this, it would not seem too difficult to get to where we need to be. We ask that you take this to your groups for discussion at your group consciences as soon as possible. The district is ready to start receiving donations for this initiative from now. Can all group treasurers and/or individuals making donations please put "PI BUS" in the deposit descriptions with electronic funds transfers to allow our treasurer to track the progress of donations, and to be able to issue refunds if this does not proceed for any reason. Electronic transfers are preferred instead of cash by our treasurer for ease of tracking and REFUND purposes, should this not go ahead for any reason. Payment Info: DARWIN AA GROUPS BSB: 085 928 ACC: 0298 738 41 Yours in Service, Dan.T Public Information Coordinator

WEBMASTER: Mick G

WEBSITE; aadarwin.org.au
WEBMASTER

Although a comprehensive statistical breakdown is available to the webmaster, it is now in an unprintable version. A snapshot below is provided.

APRIL 2021

Views – 527

Visitors – 218

Views per visitor – 2.42

208 views – "find meeting". Statistically relevant as to the service given/required of the website.

Views to "all areas" of the website can also be produced if required.

Regards

Mickg

POSITIONS VACANT

District Committee Member Office coordinator

Office maintenance

Round up Coordinator.

Treasurer

Office volunteers 11am -2pm Thursday, Friday Saturday (6months sobriety required)

SECRETARY: Susan B

At the time of writing this report, I have no issues.

LITERATURE: Caroline B

April, I ordered more pamphlets for PI

13th April sold 2 Daily Reflections books and 8 just for today cards.

and picked up an order for DDO being for 100 is AA for you and a serenity prayer banner that was a replacement.

19th April sold a large print living sober book to a member. picked up PI order of AA at a glance and is AA for You.

pamphlets. Please note there are plenty of pamphlets in the office available for PI. Sorted out a drawer in our new filing cabinet to keep the PI pamphlets aside.

2nd May banked \$34.00 For literature sale emailed Pat the bank Receipt. Checked literature tin the float remains as \$50. Thank you all for your service.

Yours in Service Caroline B.

TREATMENT AND CORRECTIONS FACILITIES: Doug W

Currently visiting Banyan House and Stringybark on a fortnightly basis. Many thanks to Peter and Darren who have built a strong rapport with the clients and staff at Banyan. Slowly people are coming forward for Stringybark and all those who have come report the visits are well received. Please note clients with alcohol issues from the nearby detox facility are also offered the chance to attend these presentations at Stringybark. Nothing new to report on organisation for prison visit. However, I heard two inspirational stories of the success of such programs at a recent meeting.

REGISTRAR: Denis P

Evening everyone! This month I have forwarded the 2022 National Convention Flyer to be held in Melbourne April 22nd to the 24th to the committees' and group contacts also printed out copies for members on the DDO desk. Forwarded the Ireland convention flyer also to those earlier indicated. Emailed a copy of the DDO Position Descriptions to the Secretary Susan. Emailed Gillian for Wednesday's group the DDO Bank details for literature payments. Sent GSR's and group contacts the Bill W. Camp next planning meeting Flyer and printed copies for members leaving on DDO desk. Forwarded an email to PI Dan from David Scott the National PI and forwarded the PI subcommittee meeting details also to GSR's and group contacts. Replied to a query from a member over eastern states that will be passing through Darwin briefly about what meetings are available on those

days letting her know and passing on a member's number after communicating with both first. Checked the Darwin Districts PO-Box each week picking up the S.A, W.A and Victorian newsletters. A letter for the NTH Region Area A treasurer letting Pat Mac. know and a Darwin City Council rental Bill. Cross checked the GSO website updating Tuesday night Palmerston with Macca's contact details to match the Darwin website as there was no group contact on there.

Great month thank you to all.

Regards Denis P.

OFFICE COORDINATOR: VACANT

Just as sending remembered Mick and myself have been making a go at keeping a phone tally with the call diversion incoming calls. If I am correct, we have had 19 calls since the 7th of last month. Takes a bit of working out but I think we might have it. Very worthwhile especially seeing them arrive at their first meeting. Thank you to all the 24hr phone volunteers.

Regards Denis P

OFFICE MAINTENANCE: Denis P is acting.

Hello again to everyone here tonight. After the last report I met with the air conditioning specialist sent via Darwin city council. He checked everything out, turned off the main switch outside and it came back. Said it could have been a power surge that kicked out. Refilled the disinfectant spray bottles. Vacuumed the office carpet and checked on supplies.

A pretty quiet month for acting office maintenance.

Kind regards Denis P.

EDITOR Serenity Times: Susan B

I am happy to say thank you to the committee's effort and 1 or 2 others, I had plenty to include in the May Issue of Serenity Times.

I have received a few positive comments which makes me feel I am on the right track.

I think my use of Microsoft word is improving, maybe not perfect on page numbers but hoping for better this issue.

I want to say a very large THANK YOU for those who have been supporting this newsletter.

Kindest Regards

Susan B.

**DARWIN ROUNDUP COORDINATOR
VACANT**

**DARWIN DISTRICT TREASURER
VACANT**

**OFFICE
VOLUNTEERS
DARWIN
3
VACANCIES
MIN
6 MONTHS SOBRIATY**

**DARWIN
OFFICE
MAINTENANCE
OFFICER
VACANT**

**DARWIN DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEMBER
VACANT**

**DARWIN DISTRICT
OFFICE
COORDINATOR
VACANT**

We lose a big man with a big heart.

A South Australian member who led tag-alongs to rallies, roundups, anniversaries, and camps all over Australia – notably to the Top End of the Territory - died last month.

Top End members were saddened to hear of the passing of Walkabout Wally H in Adelaide on May 18. Aged 61, he had been sober for 18 years.

Wally, who had been suffering health problems for some time, was a long-time supporter of the Bill W Camp at Douglas Daly, held late July in the Top End's dry season. He would bring a mob of members on a tag-along from SA, sometimes joined by members travelling from Queensland. On their way along the Stuart Hwy, they would attend (or organise) meetings at places like Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

A number of times Wally led a tag-along to Kakadu National Park after the camp. Members would explore the park and hold meetings under the stars for three nights, arriving in Darwin in time for the iconic Mindil Beach Markets on the Thursday evening. That weekend they would attend the Darwin Roundup which, in recent years, has become the less-formal Darwin Unity Weekend.

At the camp Wally was always a keen entrant in the damper-making competition, entering a delicious and perfect-looking damper cooked in his small camp oven. Al-Anon member Alison W, who initiated the competition, remembers Wally as the "gentle giant" who won many certificates for his dampers.

Wally's large frame belied his failing health. When I saw him in Adelaide earlier this year, he was looking forward to coming up to Douglas Daly again. He said driving was not a problem and he hoped to be "around for a while, but probably not as long as I'd like". He was still cheerful and getting around to meetings, but friends said he had been suffering ill-health for the past year or so.

We'll miss Walkabout Wally at the Bill W Camp (this year 23-25 July). His presence was very much a part of those meetings under the trees and the stars and yarning around the campfire.

Many members attended his funeral in Adelaide on 1 June. Rest easy, Wal. You can leave it to someone else to lead the pack up the Track.

Bob W



" SERVICE A VITAL PART OF THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL "

In my first year of Alcoholics Anonymous my sponsor had explained to me the meaning of the "Triangle" 3 legged stool; Recovery 12 steps, Unity Traditions and Service-concepts. To get a home group and to be an active member of that home group. My first home group was in the second week out of prison, being the Friday lunch time Daily Reflections in Parap at that time. There was one group member, myself being the second with regular local members coming in and travelers from overseas and interstate during the dry season. Getting there early, helping set up, staying back packing up, helping in the kitchen. First group position was buying the milk and cookies not realising I could take the receipt to the group treasurer and be reimbursed. Having monthly group conscience meetings and being able to sit in as an observer on other group business meetings was encouraging seeing more at play here. Going along to the then named "CSO" Central Service Office business meetings as an observer all of which really helped me feel a part of something much larger and more loving than where I had been and did not want to go back to. Being gently nudged into service at the CSO for whom I am deeply grateful for. At this same time in late 2016 I was being guided through the 12 steps "Shoulder to Shoulder" then doing the same with others as was done for me. I was nominated as the Central Service Literature Officer making orders for groups and individual members, making literature announcements at meetings gave me a real sense of purpose and the feeling of being useful to Alcoholics Anonymous. Watching and listening to the older sober Committee members in monthly and quarterly business meetings helped glue me in. Being able to be in partnership in one common goal, listening, reading and learning of the Traditions seeing all this in action was an experience I did not want to miss. 2016 and 17 giving a hand with setting up, shopping for food supplies in the Bill W Camp another awesome experience. Hammering in AA signs showing directions with Bill W Camp organisers for locals and interstate tagalongs and members travelling, taking selfies of each other "Hammer and Sign "in hands was a blast. The year of 2017 being active in the 12 steps, sponsorship and different areas of service really helped cement me in those early days. But without a continuous effort on all 3 sides of the Triangle I probably wouldn't be here today writing about it. Being invited to be part of the 2017 Darwin roundup committee and being invited to give Public Information presentations with another member to AOD; TAODs Rehabilitation centers and an indigenous health forum truly a great experience in trying to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Putting my hand up to go on the 24-hr. volunteer phone roster getting my first call was exciting, nervous but in time learning to listen and guide them when possible. Close to two years as literature officer I had landed some work and had to step off. Coming back to the CSO taking on a Maintenance officer position keeping up with office supplies anything from tea and coffee to copy paper, ink cartridges to vacuuming the floor. Around this time the central service office went from the CSO to the DDO Darwin District Office to help fall under the one National umbrella of the GSO; the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. What a privilege to be a member in what I used to hear "The greatest show on earth". Later nominated and encouraged to take up the DDO Registrar position. All along this journey was the great learning experience, 😊 of checking over my great ideas with my sponsor. Being in contact with GSO members making updates where needed, improving computer skills, contacting groups, emailing GSRs. And today being an ongoing active member of a Big Book Recovery Group for the past 4 to 5 years is all what makes this so worthwhile. To be helpful is our only aim, being a small part of the greater whole.

In Love and Service Denis P.

CAROLINES BOOK OF THE MONTH

Hi everyone.

Here is the book of the month.

And a part of a story from this book.

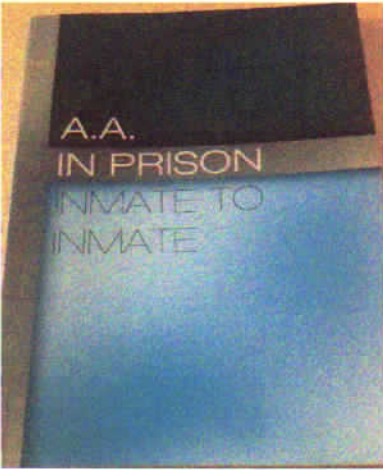
I feel Grateful that AA can reach these.

Hearts and the service that goes to those who get to hear the message and receive hope.

This is where service can also be served.

Kind regards

Caroline B



THE FOREWARD IN THIS BOOK READS:

The stories in the first edition of this book originally appeared in the AA Grapevine, AA's international monthly magazine. In this second edition we've updated the book by adding new stories—some from the A.A. Grapevine and others sent directly to us from members. In this book inmates tell these personal stories of the miracle of recovery. Each found freedom and hope alcoholism's devastating disease through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. These A.A.s share their experience with you in the hope you will identify with their problem, and you gain the strength through the Twelve Steps, fellowship, and tools of the A.A. program to join them on the road to recovery—physically, mentally, and spiritually—from alcoholism. For more about A.A., you can read the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, our basic text where you will find our program of recovery. Perhaps our co-founder described this miracle best:

"I have seen hundreds of families set their feet in the path that really goes somewhere: have seen the most impossible domestic situations righted: feuds and bitterness of all sorts wiped out. I have seen men come out of asylums and resume a vital place in the lives of their families and communities. There is scarcely any form of trouble and misery which has not been overcome among us."

Co-Founder Bill W.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Now we go to Page 43:

FREEDOM

In the March (1959) Grapevine is an article called "A Good Gripe", it is by an inmate in the Massachusetts State Prison. His name is Ray. He asks the questions: Why is A.A. at prisons? People can't get drunk there.

I agree with Ray that inmates can't get booze. But I wonder if, for an alcoholic, that isn't a problem besides alcohol I believe there is a greater danger. It is the mental and emotional binge. It can happen anywhere, anytime. That's my experience. I wonder if there are others who feel the same way.

In 53 and 54 I served 17 months in a small western prison. There was no A.A. group. No treatment program of any sort. And not enough work. Less than 25 percent of the inmates were working. I decided I would take it easy. I would solve all my problems on the day of my release. I settled down to do some fancy daydreaming.

Nothing bothered my daydreams. They were all about me ...me...me.... It turned out to be 17 months of wasted time. I went 17 months in prison without a drink. But every day I was drunk on the wine of my fantasies.

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On my release, the free world was a shock. It did not match my prison daydreams. Or care about my big ego. I started drinking. It took the rough edge off, of reality. I had been back with my wife and two children for just four months. And I found myself before a judge again. Being tried for forgery again.

But that judge knew of my drinking. He knew about A.A. In spite of my record, he put me on probation. But he told me to attend A.A. meetings. I went to meetings for a year. I stayed sober during that time. I believe it was because of the fellowship I found in the A.A. group. I didn't have much use for those Twelve Steps. I thought they were for the "weak sisters."

I ended up going on only one more drunk...but it lasted six months. During the last few weeks of that binge, I went to the upper Midwest. I was on a "travel now—pay later" plan. The "pay later" part cost me 14 months in a Wisconsin prison.

At the prison, I began seeing a psychiatrist. I discovered how crazy my life had been. At the same time, I began finding meaning in our Sunday morning A.A. meetings. The A.A. and the therapy began waking me to reality.

But it was a difficult recovery. I fought it every step of the way. I kept looking for ways to keep from changing. In time though, I came face to face with myself. I saw what a hell of a mess I had made of my life. It was hard to live with

myself. I saw how rotten I had been. What a liar I had been. All the heartache I had caused. A growing sense of guilt finally broke me. One lonely night I was in despair. I turned to God with the whole mess, I felt hopeless and truly sorry. Maybe for the first time in my life.

I can remember asking for strength, mercy, and forgiveness. God performed His greatest miracle that night He forgave me. He filled me with a strength I never knew before, I went to bed exhausted, and slept deeply.

That happened 15 months ago. I haven't known a bad.....

**WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE
REACHES OUT FOR HELP,
I WANT THE HAND OF A.A.
ALWAYS TO BE THERE.
AND FOR THAT:
I AM RESPONSIBLE.**

2021 Bill W AA Camp
With Al-Anon Participation

July 23- 25 at Douglas Daly NT

Meetings, meditation and fun in a peaceful bush setting – that's the Bill W camp – now in its 26th year. Some great sharing at meetings under the stars, morning meditation by the river, a damper cooking competition (BYO flour), a dip in the hot springs, or bring your talent to Red Faces.

Swimming in the river with the crocodiles is not advised, but we are welcome to use the Resort's big pool. It's a camp, so bring your own everything including a chair for meetings. We do supply cold water, tea and coffee – in your own mug.

The Douglas Daly Tourist Park reserves an area for us which includes a camping and vehicle site. If you are camping (\$15 a night) no need to book. The Park also reserves us a few caravan sites close to the action. If you would like to book a powered site or reserve a room or self-contained cabin, BOOK EARLY because our camp runs over a holiday weekend and the park gets very busy. Contact the park direct on 08 8978 2479 and say, "I'm with the Bill W Camp" For more info....

www.aadarwin.org.au

Talk to one of our AA contacts – Mark P 0400 255 019

Terry B 0418 895 007, Marg M 0402 602 602



I know that there are no Cabins left for booking, not sure about the rooms.



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.

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to AA's future, to place our common welfare first; to
keep our Fellowship united.
For on AA Unity depend our lives,
and the lives of those to come.

Quote August 16, 2014

"Often simplicity yields to complexity as the human mind grasps a great revelation and places its own particular interpretation upon it. All too often the revelation becomes lost in the maze of human ideas, interpretations, and suggestions. Thus, have great movements risen, flourished for a season, and died. But AA has steadily progressed through the labyrinth of complexity, carefully avoiding luring temptations of wealth, professionalism, and fame as a healer of one of mankind's most deadly diseases. Dr. Bob who responded to that original phone call, and heard and accepted the message from Bill, has left ringing in our ears, the vital admonition: 'Keep it simple.'" Kimberley, British Columbia, September 1953 "Thus We Grow..." AA Grapevine.

Quote June 15, 2014

"One day it will be left to the young people now in our Fellowship to carry on the original spirit and traditions of AA, even though the buzz words and trends will come and go. It will be up to us to teach newcomers how to maintain the type of sobriety that achieves the promises of the Big Book and dispels some of the fables of recovery popular today. It will be up to us to help the newcomer from the street dry out, shakes and pukes and all. We will be left to teach the little things: how to sit at the front, not the back of the room, say hello to the new guy, wash coffee cups and ashtrays. One day it will be up to us to uphold the Traditions. It will be up to us to keep it simple."

Bury St. Edmunds, England, September 1994 "We Who Are Next in Line," I Am Responsible: The Hand of AA

HISTORY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN DARWIN AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY PART 10

45) FORWAARD an in-house Aboriginal Recovery Program began sending members (Peter M and Serenity Alan come to mind) to AA in the early 1980's. It and the Salvation Army have provided a steady source of newcomers over the years. I remember Bluey had been around for a while when I came in and sent many a newcomer along while working with the Salvation Army. Aboriginals usually come to FORWAARD from their remote communities and spend three months on its AA based program which included several AA meetings a week. Members from the Tiwi Island would often spend some time at FOREWAARD so that they could give their sobriety a boost by getting to local meetings for a month or so.

46) In 1983 a telephone was installed in a demountable behind the Old Darwin hospital at Myilly Point. On their rostered day, a member would come in and spend a lonely few hours until a divert-a-phone was hired and located at 2 Waters Street, Nightcliff. A different member was rostered for after-hours calls each week. At this time a lunchtime meeting was going at the Harbour Room and a Beginners Meeting at a Half-way house in Voyager Street Stuart Park. (The CSC Chairman mentioned above was secured as the manager at this half-way house. *After a couple of years, he resigned when money was not able to be accounted for. This was experiencing Tradition 6 in real life for us*). A meeting also started at Banyan House and the Alcohol Drug and Treatment unit (ADTU) was visited by 2 AA members every week who talked about the AA program to a group of clients for an hour or so. The Central Service Committee (CSC) had a balance of funds of \$95.97 at this time.

47) During the next two years Public Information (PI), Treatment & Correctional Facilities (T&CF) and social activities increased. A PI Committee was established and was very active. We produced our own still advertisement for TV showing a lonely man sitting on a chair surrounded by empty bottles, watching TV with words "If you want to keep drinking that is your business. If you want to stop that is ours." This was followed by the AA contact number. This was often broadcast in the evenings. We took part in a Nationwide TV advertising campaign on ABC TV by arranging to have our local contact information shown as a runner during the program. We had our phone especially manned and received a lot of enquiries. A radio talk-back program was held during the day just before the roundup and the member had to answer a lot of queries, so AA was being noticed.

48) *After many and persistent requests AA was given approval to talk to prison inmates on a one-to-one basis. We immediately began requesting and campaigning to hold actual AA meetings in the prison.*

49) The ADTU meetings were continuing, and some District Committee Members used to travel to Daly River Mission to hold a meeting on the weekends which were often well attended but were never held unless someone from Darwin came down to open one. The late Brother Andy who was made an AA Trustee under our Plan of Procedure gave us great encouragement providing us with air-conditioned demountable's complete with amenities about 100 metres from the Daly River. Permanent stable meetings were not established until Peter M. moved from Darwin to work at the Community in 1989. Since then, the meeting has grown and now has four members. Around 1985 our Roundups was given a boost by the Salvation Army allowing us the use of the Bridge House, Motel style rooms in the heart of the city, around Roundup time. Tiwi Island members performed Corroborees at two of our Roundups and dignitaries like Ministers and Judges were guest speakers. One of our many "AA" BBQ's at the time had 100 people in attendance. There was a lot of energising catching enthusiasm around that time.

50) *A turning point for AA in Darwin came in 1986.... After a slow but steady increase in the number of members the fellowship experienced a growth spurt.*

51) The 'class of 86' which included Pat Mac, Kevin K, Celia L, (not to be confused with the Celia of the 1964 era), Tom G, John W, Graham G, and many others provided a solid foundation for AA for many years to come. Activities at this time included a Library display, placing of posters and literature in doctors waiting rooms, public notice boards, libraries, and the hospital. Channel 8 was running excellent TV advertisements; new Radio announcements were broadcast, and a large amount of literature went to the prison. Prison visits were announced around each block and each new inmate was given a letter from AA about our Sunday meeting for which we were given the auditorium at

this time, so members were not exposed to the public and other prisoners. The ADTU and prison had 11 and six members respectively rostered. National Office proposed we form an Area and send a delegate to conference. This did not happen until the following year when we had a surplus of funds and no way of increasing expenditure locally.

(I hope you are enjoying reading this as much as I have. Next issue will be the final part of this History. If anyone has anymore information on Groups, Meetings, interesting Facts, which I am sure the entire Northern Territory has many stories we have not heard. If you do, please get on board, and submit your information to The Editor, Serenity Times via email. serenitytimesaa@outlook.com I know for a fact that this is being followed as far away as America.)

THE 12 STEPS:

1/ WE ADMITTED WE WERE POWERLESS OVER ALCOHOL. THAT OUR LIVES HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE. *(Alcohol has let me down, my life is a mess.)*

2/ CAME TO BELIEVE THAT A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES COULD RESTORE US TO SANITY. *(There is help!)*

3/ MADE A DECISION TO TURN OUR WILL AND OUR LIVES OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM. *(I let a Higher Power take over.)*

4/ MADE A SEARCHING AND FEARLESS MORAL INVENTORY OF OURSELVES. *(I need to look at my life.)*

5/ ADMITTED TO GOD, TO OURSELVES AND TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING THE EXACT NATURE OF OUR WRONGS. *(I admitted all I had done wrong.)*

6/ WERE ENTIRELY READY TO HAVE GOD AS WE UNDERSTAND HIM REMOVE ALL THESE DEFECTS OF CHARACTER. *(I want to be free.)*

7/ HUMBLY ASKED HIM TO REMOVE OUR SHORTCOMINGS. *(I ask a Higher power to help me be free.)*

8/ MADE A LIST OF ALL PERSONS WE HAD HARMED AND BECAME WILLING TO MAKE AMENDS TO THEM ALL. *(I ask: Who did I hurt? How can I fix it?)*

9/ MADE DIRECT AMENDS TO SUCH PEOPLE WHEREVER POSSIBLE, EXCEPT WHEN TO DO SO WOULD INJURE OTHERS. *(I try to fix things if I can.)*

10/ CONTINUED TO TAKE PERSONAL INVENTORY AND WHEN WE WERE WRONG PROMPTLY ADMITTED IT. *(I check up on myself. I am honest.)*

11/ SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION TO IMPROVE OUR CONCIIOUS CONTACT WITH GOD, AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM. PRAYING ONLY FOR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL FOR US AND THE POWER TO CARRY THAT OUT. *(I ask a Higher Power for help to live the right way.)*

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.)*

Tradition Six

BY: BILL W.

The sixth of a new series of articles explaining The Twelve Traditions. . .An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

THE moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable for us to feel we might have an answer for a lot of other things. The AA groups, many thoughts, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the AA name behind any meritorious cause.

Here are some of the things we dreamed. Hospitals didn't like alcoholics, so we thought we'd build a hospital chain of our own. People needed to be told what alcoholism was, so we'd educate the public, even re-write school and medical textbooks. We'd gather up derelicts from Skid Rows, sort out those who could get well and make it possible for the rest to earn their livelihood in a kind of quarantined confinement. Maybe these places would make large sums of money to carry on our other good works. We seriously thought of re-writing the laws of the land, and have it declared that alcoholics are sick people. No more would they be jailed; judges would parole them in our custody. We'd spill AA into the dark regions of dope addiction and criminality. We'd form groups of depressive and paranoid folks, the deeper the neurosis the better we'd like it. It stood to reason that if alcoholism could be licked, so could any problem.

It occurred to us that we could take what we had into the factories and cause laborers and capitalists to love each other. Our uncompromising honesty might soon clean up politics. With one arm around the shoulder of religion and the other around the shoulder of medicine, we'd resolve their differences. Having learned to live so happily, we'd show everybody else how. Why, we thought, our society of Alcoholics Anonymous might prove to be the spearhead of a new spiritual advance! We might transform the world.

Yes, we of AA did dream those dreams. How natural that was, since most alcoholics are bankrupt idealists. Nearly every one of us had wished to do great good, perform great deeds, and embody great ideals. We are all perfectionists who, failing perfection, have gone to the other extreme and settled for the bottle and the blackout. Providence, through AA, had brought us within reach of our highest expectations. So why shouldn't we share our way of life with everyone?

Whereupon we tried AA hospitals. . .they all bogged down because you cannot put an AA group into business; too many busybody cooks spoil the broth. AA groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did AA fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was AA spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement? In consternation, we saw ourselves getting married to all kinds of enterprise, some good and some not so good. Watching alcoholics committed willy-nilly to prisons or asylums, we began to cry, "There oughtta be a law!" AAs commenced to thump tables in legislative committee-rooms and agitated for legal reform. That made good newspaper copy, but little else. We saw we'd soon be mired in politics. Even inside AA we found it imperative to remove the AA name from clubs and Twelfth Step Houses.

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try. Years ago this principle of "no endorsement" was put to a vital test. Some of the great distilling companies proposed to go into the field of alcohol education. It would be a good thing, they believed, for the liquor trade to show a sense of public responsibility. They wanted to say that liquor should be enjoyed, not misused; hard drinkers ought to slow down, and problem drinkers. . .alcoholics. . .should not drink at all.

In one of their trade associations, the question arose of just how this campaign should be handled. Of course they would use the resources of radio, press, and films to make their point. But what kind of a person should head the job? They immediately thought of Alcoholics Anonymous. If they could find a good public relations man in our ranks, why wouldn't he be ideal? He'd certainly know the problem. His connection with AA would be valuable, because the fellowship stood high in public favor and hadn't an enemy in the world.

Soon they'd spotted their man, an AA with the necessary experience. Straightway he appeared at New York's AA headquarters, asking, "Is there anything in our tradition that suggests I shouldn't take a job like this one? The kind of education seems good to me, and is not too controversial. Do you headquarters folks see any bugs in it?"

At first glance, it did look like a good thing. Then doubt crept in. The association wanted to use our member's full name in all its advertising; he was to be described both as its **director of publicity and as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous**. Of course there could not be the slightest objection if such an association hired an AA member solely because of his public relations ability and his knowledge of alcoholism. But that wasn't the whole story, for in this case not only was an AA member to break his anonymity at a public level, he was to link the name Alcoholics Anonymous to this particular educational project in the minds of millions. It would be bound to appear that AA was now backing education. . .liquor trade association style.

The minute we saw this compromising fact for what it was, we asked the prospective publicity director how he felt about it. "Great Guns!" he said. "Of course I can't take the job. The ink wouldn't be dry on the first ad before an awful shriek would go up from the dry camp. They'd be out with lanterns looking for an honest AA to plump for their brand of education. AA would land exactly in the middle of the wet-dry controversy. Half the people in this country would think we'd signed up with the dries, the other half would think we'd joined the wets. What a mess!"

"Nevertheless," we pointed out, "You still have a legal right to take this job."

"I know that," he said. "But this is no time for legalities. Alcoholics Anonymous saved my life, and it comes first. I certainly won't be the guy to land AA in the big-time trouble, and this would really do it!"

Concerning endorsements, our friend had said it all. We saw as never before that we could not lend the AA name to any cause other than our own.

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 desire for AA membership is the desire to stop drinking."

Tradition Four

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

Tradition Five

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

Tradition Six

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

Tradition Seven

"Every AA 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

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

Tradition Ten

"Alcoholics has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA 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."

DARWIN SERVICE GROUP

**NEXT MEETING Wednesday 2nd June, no meeting Wednesday 9th June due to District meeting, then we have 16th and 23rd June. Come along and find out how things work in AA. Zoom Meetings 7pm Darwin Australia Time
ID 8565670466 Password 719924**

AA

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 a 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.

DIRECTORY

Alcoholics Anonymous P.O. Box 40760 CASUARINA, N.T. 5792
TELEPHONE: (089) 85 4479

MEETINGS

8.00pm MON Harbour Room, Christ Church
4 Smith Street, Darwin.
8.00pm TUE: Steps Meeting, St Pauls School Annexe
(AA Members only) 2 Waters Street Nightcliff.
8.00pm TUE: Palmerston Gray Neighbour Centre
Victoria Parade.
8.00pm WED: Casuarina Hospital, Auditorium
7.00pm THURS: Forward House 33 Charles St. Stuart Park
8.00pm THURS: Sunrise Centre, Salvation Army. Salonka.
8.00pm FRI: Baptist Church Hall, Dripstone Rd. Casuarina.
8.00pm SAT: St Pauls School Annexe, 2 Waters St. Nightcliff.
10.00am SUN: Discussion Meeting. Gordon Symons Hostel
(AA members only) Stuart Hwy, Winnellie.
5.00pm SUN: Also at Hostel. Open AA Meeting.

OTHER MEETINGS.

KATHERINE:

TUES & THURS
Leon- 721 733 (BH)
721 094 (HM)

ALICE SPRINGS:

MON. WED. THURS. FRI. SUN 10.00 am.
Bob- 522 163 (AH)
521 814 (BH)

KUNNANURRA:

Horrie 523 324

TUES 8.30pm EWIN Centre

Les or Eunice 091.681 418

WED Terry 87 1228

GOVE:

DARWIN CONTACTS

Natalie 27 1242

Kevin 85 6993

Patrick 84 3848

Graham 27 1975

Doug 27 2332

Patrick Mac 41 0109

Paul 85 5858

John 27 6274

12.15 pm THURS:

Sharing Hour Harbour Room
4 Smith Street Darwin.

DARWIN ANNUAL ROUNDUP 1ST WEEKEND IN AUGUST

ALICE SPRINGS ROUNDUP 1987 APRIL 11-13.

VISITORS please note.

- Some of the meetings are very hard to find.
- Check them out in daylight, or,
- Ring a member to pilot you.