



THE SERENITY TIMES

The monthly newsletter

of the

Darwin district

July 2021

Darwin District

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

Darwin District Office

Nightcliff Community Centre
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PO Box 40760
Casuarina NT 0810
Telephone 0889485202
Email: aadarwin@bigpond.com
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 7th July at 7pm, via Zoom.
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.

Tradition 7. Long Form.

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members.

We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise.

Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose.

Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.



As active alcoholics we were always looking for a handout in one way or another.

**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.**

AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.

Public Information Update

Treasurer DDO: Pat M

FINANCIAL REPORT:

At the end of May, we retain a healthy balance (cash and bank account) of \$6,072.31.

We recorded a loss for the month of \$11.39 compared to a loss of \$863.07 in May 2020. Unusual expenditure in May 2021 included a replacement yellow toner cartridge, a new laminator, bookends for literature and some PI cardholders. Year to date we are showing a loss of \$849.67 but this includes the donation of \$2000 to GSO in December.

Petty cash float is \$50.00.

Acting DCM: Mick G

JUNE 9TH 2021

ACTING DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

Welcome everyone and thank you for giving your time to this Darwin District Meeting.

Darwin continues to operate 18 meetings per week, 10 "face to face", two "hybrid" meetings and 6 meetings on zoom.

There are several "newcomers" attending meetings and joining "home groups" which is great to see.

NORTHERN REGION AREA "A" ASSEMBLY

The recent Assembly was attended by the Area Delegate, Carolyn G and the Northern Region Trustee Jane M. Thank you to both members for your attendance and sharing current GSB information.

It was reported that the format for the General Service Conference for 2021 is yet to be decided as to being a "virtual" or a regular Conference meeting.

5 Trustees will be rotating off the GSB this year.

The Delegate reports that there is a proposal to make it a full Conference, considering topics carried over from 2020 and new topics for 2021.

Our Area has called for "special" Area Assembly to discuss the Topics for 2021 on October 24th Sunday 9am on ZOOM.

Roundups

At present, it would appear that there will be no Darwin Roundup this year, however the Bill W Camp at the Douglas Daly July 23-25 will be held, thank you to the very hard-working Bill W Committee.

It would also appear that there is no suggestion of any group/s prepared to organise the Darwin Unity Weekend at the beginning of August, so far.

Darwin District Office

The Darwin District Office currently has 3 days vacant for volunteer Office Service, the phone roster is full, with extra members available.

Roundup Coordinator, Office Maintenance, Office Coordinator and District Committee Member positions are still vacant, however existing position holders are operating these positions in an "acting" capacity.

I would once again, like to express my gratitude to all who have attended this evening and the Service Work that is achieved by a small number of committed members.

Regards

Mickg

Acting DCM,

Darwin

SECRETARY: Susan B

All going smoothly, I now have a service sponsor.

I am hoping to learn to be a better and more useful secretary.

REGISTRAR: Denis P

A great month of service being able to update the Tuesday lunch Harbor View group contact with the GSO, through Steve Townsend. Emailed copies to GSR's and group contacts printing out paper copies in the Darwin District Office for anyone who would like them. Checked on the Darwin Districts Casuarina PO-BOX with an invoice for Friday night Casuarina group forwarding onto their GSR and group contact.

Forwarded Thursday night Palmerston group an email from Palmerston City Council also an email from Darwin City Council to the Friday Casuarina group contact earlier this month. We received an email from City of Darwin's Community Services Directory saying that they no longer maintain a community services directory. They have transferred our listing over to NT. Community and for us to register with them. With the help of John S. and Mick G. we have been working at getting that done. In looking into the site while visiting a member we noticed that the Al-anon page had the address and opening hours listed exactly as The Darwin District which was incorrect, so I was able to bring it to the member from Al-anon and share with her the email letting her know this was not our doing that it was automatically transferred over. Sent a welcoming email to our new National GSO literature officer position Patrick on behalf of the Darwin District and fellowship.

Many thanks to "everyone" ... Denis P.

OFFICE COORDINATOR: VACANT

Denis P. (acting)

Hello to everyone and my apologies for my late report to the Secretary and committee. All has been going well with a big thank you to Mick G. taking up the phone diversions for the past month. Seems to work well sharing the diversions each month with no issues which helps lighten the load. We still have a full 24hr phone roster with people on the back up list when needed. Thank you to all the 24hr phone rostered volunteers for your ongoing service. We currently still have 3 volunteers in the office Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday including myself. Thank you to the 2 office volunteers for your service and commitment who always check in if they can't make the office.

I've done a phone count for the calls coming in on the diversions with a number of 19 calls from the 5th of May to the 23rd of June. 3 days are still open for office volunteers with a minimum of 6 months sobriety, who have a home group and are supported by their home group. That being Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11am to 2pm. To contact Mick G. or myself. Thank you for everyone's service,
Regards Denis P.

OFFICE MAINTENANCE:

Denis P (acting)

A really great easily worked position for anyone who has some sobriety time up, a home group and who is supported by their home group to do some service.

This month Mick purchased a Laminating machine with pockets and some more business card holders. I took these into the office with a receipt for Pat Mac. and tested the Laminator on PI posters, it works well. Earlier this month purchased other office supplies such as bin bags, milk, paper towels, paper cups, yellow Toner cartridge, Pi business card holders and helped the literature officer purchase Book ends that day. Topping up disinfectant spray bottles and vacuumed the office floor. A big thank you to Caroline B. Literature officer giving a hand with the cleaning on the days you're in there and Mick G. and Pat Mac. always picking up the phone when needing to run something by yaz and making it prompt and easy for funds for supplies. And to the rest of the committee and interaction with the fellowship making it a joyful experience.

Kind Regards Denis P. 🙏

BILL W CAMP

Mark P.

There has been affair bit of interest from interstate. We are expecting about 80-100 people.

Some members have gone and checked the site again and stayed for weekend.

Mark and Bob are helping heaps.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Dan T.

Just to let you know that donations received so far (at 25th June) total \$1,175 – well on our way to the target of \$4,000 by 15th November – approximately 15 more weeks so we need an average of **\$188.33 per week** to make our target – easily achievable if groups and individuals keep those contributions coming!

WEBMASTER: Mick G

Darwin Website

aadarwin.org.au website continues to keep members up to date with all local, and selected national and international AA news, conferences, workshops and other resources. While also receiving a heavy stream of "hits" on meeting information.

TREATMENT AND CORRECTIONS FACILITIES: Doug W

H & I Report May 2021

All to report is things are going as per previous months with regular visits to two rehabs.

I'm hoping to be able to put a little more work into the role in the near future.

Regards Doug

LITERATURE: Caroline B

Hi again everyone.

10th May sold literature to the Monday night group being for 2 Big Books, 4 little big books and 5 starter packs. Total \$91.50

10th May ordered 12 Big Books 4th edition for the office and inquired about a new book out for inmates.

10th May purchased book ends set of 6, thank you Mick, Pat and DDO members for supporting this. 11th May sold and put 6 starter kits together for Friday night group cost \$21.00. Set out the literature with new book ends, thank you Mick and Pat plus DDO members for supporting me with this I must say the bookshelf is looking good, neat and tidy.

12th May sold an Australian Big Book to a member \$18.00.

17th May sold 3 starter packs and one 4th edition Big Book to a member total \$35.50.

20th May sold literature to Paul a lone AA member from Kununurra total \$79.50 being for big book, living

sober, 12x12, 27 pamphlets and a group handbook and 6 starter packs.

24th checked literature tin float as \$50.00 and emailed an order for PI posters and 6 little big books to Patrick who is taking Chris Surplice's place

Banked \$143.50 For sales 26th May and sent Pat Mac the bank Receipt checked the literature tin float remains as \$50.00. 2nd June picked up order for DDO being 6 little big books and PI posters.

Sold a pamphlet to a member.

Thanks to everyone for your service.

Yours in Service

Caroline B.

EDITOR Serenity Times: Susan B

SERENITY TIMES

As usual always looking for contributions and constructive input. I have now been Editor for 12 months how fast that has gone. Thank you all for your contributions. This is for all so please keep contributing and if you have not been sure what to write send me an email and I will happily help, or if you see me, please ask. Even new members have plenty to provide. Once again Thank You.

Suze B.

District Trustee. Jane M.

Hi friends, it has been really good to listen to reports. Coming to these meetings is helping me to inform the GSB. I have communicated with Denis P. Public Information has some activity happening. Getting to meetings. I am noticing there is still not enough people nominating and finding out what would attract members to service. There is some activity in getting the Big Book into some Aboriginal language.

Jane M.

POSITIONS VACANT !!!!!!!!!

District Committee Member

Office coordinator

Office maintenance

Round up Coordinator.

Treasurer

Office volunteers 11am -2pm

Thursday, Friday Saturday

(6months sobriety required)

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

(Short form)

Tradition One

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on 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 AA membership is a desire to stop drinking."

Tradition Four

"Each group should be autonomous except in manners affecting other groups or AA 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 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 Anonymous 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."



JUST BE MYSELF---by Joel C.

I arrived in AA in 1989, frightened and lonely. As a young gay man, I was not sure how I would be received, so I attended meetings for LGBTQ members (referred to at the time as Gay & Lesbian groups). Within a few months, I began branching out to other meetings, timidly at first. Unknown to me, the General Service Conference had approved the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" just a few weeks before I got sober. The pamphlet began showing up in meetings in the fall of that year. As I branched out beyond the Gay & Lesbian groups, I noticed that pamphlet in the literature racks of the meetings I was trying out, and whenever I saw it, I let out a sigh of relief. The presence of that pamphlet at mainstream meetings made me feel welcome and relieved my fear. I did not know anything about the service structure or the Conference at that time, but I know today that the Conference had done a great service to me and my fellow LGBTQ members and prospects by developing that pamphlet. It is the type of pamphlet I refer to today as a Third Tradition pamphlet. Its purpose is to reinforce our message that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. It is a means of extending a welcoming hand to alcoholics who are wary about how they may be received in AA. As I made my way through the Steps and got involved in service, my experience in AA healed the shame that I had long carried about being gay. I was welcomed with open arms wherever I went in AA. I had the same opportunities as any other member, and I began to make my way into the service structure. The old-timers at my group encouraged me to become our group's general service representative (GSR). I had recently started dating a guy in AA who was involved in general service, and that made serving as a GSR look even more attractive to me. Our relationship deepened in tandem with our involvement in service. We registered our domestic partnership with the state of California in 2005, while he was serving as our area delegate. We married a few years later while I was serving as alternate delegate, and I went on to serve as our area delegate the following term. The service position of area delegate is both joyful and exhausting and having a partner who has been through the experience and who knows what I'm going through can really help. Sometimes boy meets boy on AA campus, and things turn out well! In 2014, I was elected Pacific Regional Trustee and I was both elated and terrified. One of my concerns was about how open I should be about my sexual orientation as I carried out my service. I knew I would be visiting all the areas in the region and would likely be invited to share my personal recovery story on many visits. Since ours is a program of rigorous honesty, I really don't know how to tell my story without speaking openly about sneaking into gay bars when I was underage, about my broken-hearted pursuit of various guys when I was drinking, about the men and women in the Gay & Lesbian groups who carried the message to me and about the power of the Steps to remove our defects and make possible a true partnership with another human being—in my case, a relationship with another man. In my new role as trustee, however, I had some fear that as I made my way around the region, I might not always be met with the same acceptance that I had experienced in meetings in Southern California. So, I talked with my sponsor about it and he encouraged me to just be myself. My first event was in a state that I regarded as one of the most culturally conservative in the region. When I shared who I am with openness and honesty, I knew instantly that being fully out was absolutely the right choice. At that event, I had an experience that would repeat itself frequently as I travelled around the region. LGBTQ members came up to me and thanked me, some with tears in their eyes, for sharing openly as a gay man. Sometimes I would be told in a whisper, "I can't be out in AA because of where I live, but your story gives me hope that everything will be OK." It gave me one of the greatest feelings I experienced in AA—the feeling of being useful. And then an amazing thing happened. At my first Conference as a trustee, the Conference approved a recommendation to update the pamphlet, "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic." I was assigned to the trustees' literature committee and was given the gift of being part of the subcommittee that worked on the pamphlet revision. Reading the new stories that were sent in filled me with gratitude. The submissions were deeply moving and the members who sent in their stories did such a great job of carrying the AA message. Our efforts ultimately resulted in the revised pamphlet, titled "LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.," following the 2018 Conference, which was my last Conference as trustee.

My AA experience had come full circle. As a frightened new member in 1989, I was made to feel welcome by the original "Gay & Lesbian" pamphlet and through my participation in service I got to have a hand in developing a pamphlet that I hope will be useful in extending the hand of AA to the suffering alcoholic today.

I think of a young, LGBTQ drunk in a small town somewhere, perhaps where there are no LGBTQ meetings. I picture that person doing a web search on "Alcoholics Anonymous LGBTQ" and being able to read our updated pamphlet at aa.org. Or perhaps that prospective member stumbles into a meeting where the literature person has included the pamphlet in the literature rack to welcome them.

I imagine that seemingly hopeless drunk reading that pamphlet and the wonderful stories in it, identifying with the experiences that our members have shared, and receiving the message of hope. And for that, I am so very grateful. For more stories from gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender AA members, read *Sober & Out*, available in the AA Grapevine Store. (Printed with permission from Grapevine)

THAT MENTAL BLANK SPOT

We need the Preamble to AA Meetings that "Alcohol is cunning, baffling and powerful." If we appreciate the truth of this, we are for-warned and for-armed against a possible relapse.

Dr Silkworth's great contribution to the Big Book "Alcoholics Anonymous". The Dr's Opinion, states that the alcoholics mind is just as abnormal as his body. Its relatively easy to understand the allergy of the body as a medical condition. This allergic reaction settles down once we stop drinking alcohol. But, why then after weeks, months, even years 'off the grog', do we pick up again and risk our lives by continuing our dance with death? Dr Silkworth puts it bluntly on page xxx '...among physicians, the general opinion seems to be that most chronic alcoholics are doomed.' This should keep us sober, but then it does not.

Bill W. puts in a valiant effort in the early pages of the Big Book to try and warn alcoholics, of all types, to be careful of those mental blank spots which precede the first drink.

He also tries to describe lots of different types of alcoholics. Remember not every alcoholic ends up on skid row. He takes a lot of trouble citing different examples of drinkers because identification is so important. Its only when we truly and deeply identify as suffering from the disease of alcoholism that we become willing to seek recovery and do the necessary work.

Here are some examples of different alcohol types that he cites.

Bill W. himself thought he had found the missing piece when 'Silky' explained to him about allergic reaction alcoholics have once they take even one drink. Bill left Towns Hospital full of optimism that now he understood his body's reaction to alcohol, that he would not be stupid enough to drink again. Yet as we know in a few months he starts another bender.

Then there is Roland H., who spent a year in Dr Carl Jung's clinic in Switzerland. Upon leaving the clinic Roland felt confident he understood the 'workings of his own mind', and would never drink again, yet within a few weeks he was drunk.

And remember Fred, whom I identify with. Here is the man with everything going his way; nice family, great job, plenty of money, great reputation. He had quit drinking thinking his own willpower was the answer. Yet on p.41 we read, "It was the end of a perfect day, not a cloud in the horizon." Fred had the 'insane idea' that having a cocktail before dinner was a kind of reward for a successful day. This led Fred into another demoralizing bender.


And who can forget Ol' Jim, who after being sober awhile 'suddenly' had the insane thought it would be ok to drink whisky if he mixed it with milk!

These examples highlight the insanity which precedes that first drink...and it scares the hell out of me. Neither self-knowledge nor willpower will give us/me the immunity from picking up that dreaded first drink.

If we are fully convinced of this, Bill is hoping- (begging us even), that we will follow instructions, work The Program, outlined in the Big Book as the only way we can protect ourselves from this insanity and that 'strange mental twist', which precedes the first drink.

Without working The Program, that is the STEPS, the TRADITIONS, the SLOGANS, CONSCIOUS CONTACT, on a REGULAR BASIS, with our HIGHER POWER, READINGS, MEETINGS, SERVICE, HELPING OTHERS, we are vulnerable to the disease returning, - which my sponsor reminds me is doing push-ups in the next room.

Alcoholism is a scary disease because we are never free of it. Recovery requires us to constantly do the things we are told to do above. These are our medicines which keep the disease at bay. If we stop taking our medicine for a few days, we slip back into denial and think we are the ones who can control it. I am speaking from experience here. Quitting drinking is the beginning but staying stopped gives us the best chance for full recovery. Alcoholics Anonymous offers us a way to be 'happy, joyous and free' without picking up our onetime old friend, the booze.

Love in fellowship
Trudger Jenny, 
Alice Springs

SERVICE WORKS

I found great delight and acceptance as part of my first group in 1989 as "tea server".

Back in the day, smoke filled rooms, 50-60 members, 90 min meetings, and at 9pm the meeting would be stopped, and people would come up to the servery and get their "cuppa". We made your drink for you, pre and post meeting also.

For one of the few times in my life, I felt a "part of the whole".

It was a great way to meet people and to feel a part of something, after being separate from the whole world for so long.

I was "shoved" into the GSR position at 8 months sobriety and at my first Central Service Meeting of 30 -40 GSR's all hell broke loose with fisticuffs and harsh recriminations – the baptism of fire.

"Welcome to AA my sponsor remarked."

Where was the spiritual action in program? The argument, the dissent, the personality warfare, and character assassination.

Hahahaha, welcome to AA Service in operation, "it is the toughest school you will ever be in," said my sponsor.

All these years later he is still right, but thank God for these experiences, as in giving in Service, I have received one hundred-fold.

It taught me that regardless, we are all human, all in different stages of recovery, we are all entitled to "speak", it taught me courage to speak up as a minority voice in a discussion, it taught me to truly listen, and it taught me to be informed and make decisions for the good of the Fellowship without any personal agendas or outcomes.

It taught me to deal with frustration at the "snail pace" that AA often appeared to move. When I returned to Darwin and was GSR for what used to be, the Monday night meeting at St Marys, at that time a quorum of 5 groups was required to pass any agenda items. For 18months we could not get a quorum. For 18 months the same members turned up. Did AA disappear - no. Did I learn discipline, acceptance, perseverance and make friends – yes.

Darwin itself, has seen many "boisterous arguments" resentments gained and given, some personal enmities not overcome, Spiritual as we try, first- we are human. But our common goal as a fellowship has never been lost and the example of leadership and sobriety from often, just two or three members holding the Darwin fellowship together has always been sobering.

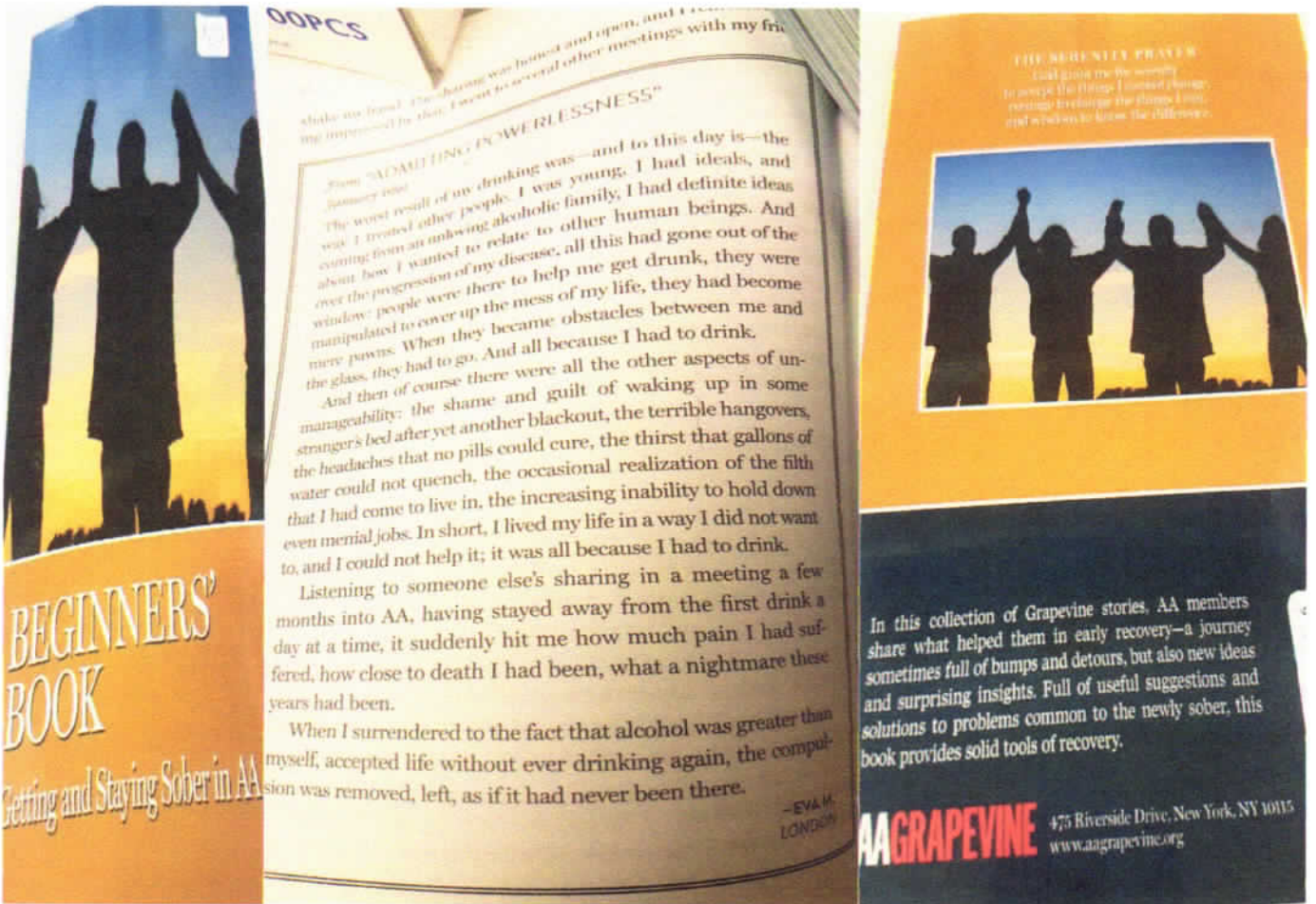
There will always be the "snipers", those who complain about GSO, DDO, AA Committees, decisions made, both local, National, and International, but who never actually do any Service Work. This happens in all walks of life, from the footy club to the workplace -this once was me.

Thank God, AA, and great sponsorship for teaching me that it is my responsibility if AA is to be there for the "newcomer". It can ONLY happen when I am forced out of my "safety" zone, when I choose to make myself vulnerable, and come to the understanding that what better service in life can there be than to "work" every day for "every alcoholic" who has already found AA and for those who are yet to come through our doors. "Give and you shall receive" how true experience has been for me.

Yours In Service



Mickg



Hi everyone, I hope you enjoyed this short story from this book. These and many varieties of books are available for purchase at the DDO office.

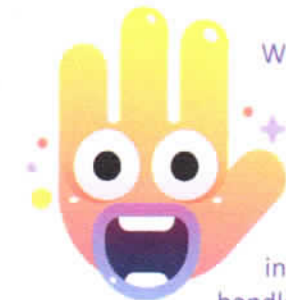
Kind regards
Caroline B



Certainly, nobody invented Alcoholics Anonymous. AA is a synthesis of principles and attitudes which came to us from Medicine and from Religion. We alcoholics have simply streamlined those forces, adapting them to our special use in a society where they can work effectively. Our contribution was but the missing link in a chain of recovery which is now so significant and of such promise for the future."

Bill Wilson, AA Co-Founder
1958 address to the New York Medical Society

Remember if we are not careful, we can be in that 'MENTAL BLANKSPOT' mentioned on page 5 in this edition of Serenity Times. SAY NO TO ALCOHOL, and read the promises page 83-84 of the BB, in step nine. Here they are...



We are going to have a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to

handle situations which used to baffle us We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

HISTORY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN DARWIN

and the

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Part 11

52) In 1987 Alice Springs offered to pay 50% of the Delegates costs to attend conference. Our first Delegate was John S. with alternate Maurice Mac. From Alice Springs. The Northern Region officially became part of the National Structure on 30th July 1987 when our application to Form an Area was accepted by the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee. Encouraged by Bob W., Graeme R., and others the Northern Territory became a Region and Alice Springs decided the Region should have one Area and two Districts. In 1989 a motion was approved to switch from our CSC based structure to a National based Structure with a District instead of a CSC. (*We had no Office at this time*). 17 voting members were at this meeting. Our Area was successful in a bid to hold a Regional Forum and the PI committee began submitting written reports to the District. Simplification of literature for Aborigines was first mentioned. Social events included Christmas and New Year parties which provided a safe place for members to spend these sometimes-difficult times. The CSC meetings moved to Francis Street Rapid Creek in 1990.

53) Pat C. (deceased) from Alice Springs became the new Delegate in 1991. The Central Service Office must have opened at this time. Doug B. was one of those involved in obtaining the old presbytery beside the Bishop of Darwin's Residence to accommodate our first office. After it had been running for awhile under the direction of the District Committee, we found that too much District time was being taken up about minor matters like housekeeping, office cleaning and key distribution so the District Committee selected a sub-committee to look after managing the office in March 1992. There were not enough willing members to take part in organised 12th Step work to form a separate Central Service Committee to run the Office. A lunch time meeting was held twice a week and some other meetings were held in the evenings. This location was ideal for visitors, those working in the city and for members to drop in. Graham R. followed John S. to Conference in 1991, followed by John W, and Pat Mac. And Tom G. Ray D is our current Delegate (remember *this was written in 2007*). Our first attendance at Board was in March (1992) with John S. as Regional Trustee followed 4 years later by Alan K. John S. became the Asia Oceania Service Meeting/International Delegate in 1998.

54) A group of enthusiastic members got together in 1991 and painted the dilapidated Office area and meeting room which provided a bright lift to our rooms. With another project on hand there was an improvement in unity when the Office opened. At this time all the other PI and Institutions organised 12th Step work were still going strongly with the addition of Probation and Parole and the Tamarind Centre to our rosters. We were cooperating with the Courts in providing evidence of meeting attendance from Group Secretaries. 'The Outback' newsletter was produced by one member who did an excellent job. *This publication was well received for at least two years in many outback areas of the Top End. It came to an end as the result of a Traditions problem (The newsletter published articles from all Twelve Step programs)*. Charles Street Group requested literature translations and members continued visits to Probation and Parole. A car rally was added to our list of social activities.

55) In April 1995 we were given one weeks' notice to vacate the Smith Street premises. After a lot of hassle and rushing about we found temporary respite at Geranium Street Stuart Park. The rooms were previously a section of the Aboriginal Hostel that used to accommodate people coming in for a week or so from outlying communities and were very robust. We had the use of an additional room for District meetings. By this time, the Office was manned every weekday from 11am until 2pm and the phone diverted to a member's home each evening. In April, this year we realised that, probably due to the Office move, no one had been to the ADTU for three months. This was quickly rectified when a new Institutions Committee was elected who also arranged for a literature stand for the Prison meeting. AA submitted an article for the Monthly Journal of Medical Practitioner or publication. Kevin D. and Reg H. formed an Archives Committee and workshops on Structure were held at the Berrimah Catholic Centre. 20 people attended a PI meeting at the University and the Jabiru meeting (200km Southeast of Darwin) was included on our meetings list. Our area submitted a Conference topic that was later successful and improved the functioning of the Conference; "That CSO Representatives be not entitled to vote at Conference". This greatly improved the Delegate compared to others ratio seated at Conference. An Area Assembly was held at Tennant Creek for the first time and was deemed such a success it was decided to have one there each year from then on. The Salvation Army requested AA speakers for their program's meetings and Crisis Line asked for speakers at their training programs. Alan K. proposed a National Convention to be held in Darwin!

56) National Office provided a script for a promotional video "Circles of Love and Service" and asked Darwin AA to produce an amateur video. Several members got together and read the script out in the tropical setting of a member's house. This was viewed with enthusiasm by the Board and Delegates who decided to continue with the project. So, things were on the move in 1996 with AA in wide demand. (*A little more to come in August -Editor*)



**Members are needed to help set up the camp on Friday July 23rd
Please bring items for auction**

2021 Bill W AA Camp

With Al-Anon Participation

July 23- 25 at Douglas Daly NT

Camp Sites (\$15 a night) no need to book.

The Park also reserves us a few caravan sites close to the action.

All cabins and rooms are booked out.

www.aadarwin.org.au

Talk to one of our AA contacts – Mark P 0400 255 019 Marg M 0402 602 602

Al Anon –Sarah 0407 013 395 Fay 0400 582 749 (text only) or

alanon.alateen.darwin@gmail.com

Douglas Daly Tourist Park

Northern Territory

BILL W. CAMP 2021 PROGRAM

FRIDAY 23RD JULY

5pm-Registration of names (no fees)

7pm-Welcome meeting (ID)

SATURDAY 24TH JULY

7.00am-Big Breakfast (\$5.00)

9.am-Meeting "Helping Others".

Daily Reflections Page 214

10.30-Cuppa

11am-Meeting "Steps 10 and 11"

(Big Book pp84 to 88)

12.30pm-Lunch break.

We are welcome to use Resort Pool.

2.30pm-Damper cooking for competition

Fun Cricket Match

4pm-Damper competition judging

and tasting

5pm-Auction

7.30pm- Open meeting with Al-Anon

Speakers

9.00pm-Red Faces

SUNDAY 25TH JULY

7.00am-Meditation by the river

with Sam H.

8.30am-Remembering those gone
to the big meeting in the sky
(in last 12 months).

9.30am-feedback meeting-ideas
suggestions for the camp.

10.am- Spiritual Concepts meeting.

11.30am- Sobriety Countdown

12noon-Farewell "Pot Luck" lunch



THE KATHERINE ROUNDUP

FRIDAY 6TH AUGUST 2021 -SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST 2021

7.30pm Friday night 6th August

Saturday 7th BBQ 6pm Meeting 7.30pm

Sunday 8th Meeting 10am

Followed by Farewell with Al Anon participation

If you are interested in Katherine Roundup, please check website.

www.aadarwin.org.au

Contact person Kyra 0428393647

Copy of poster on this
page has been replaced
with new poster.
Please see following 2
pages.

General Service Office Archives Department Policy on the Co-Founders' Posthumous Anonymity

The mission of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office Archives is to document permanently the work of Alcoholics Anonymous; to make the history of the organization accessible to A.A. members and other researchers; and to provide a context for understanding A.A.'s progression, principles and traditions.

In keeping with our mission, the G.S.O. Archives maintains the anonymity of all A.A. members, living or deceased, including the co-founders, to the maximum extent possible.

A.A. members requesting images of the co-founders, for limited use only, such as in presentations or exhibits at A.A. events, may contact the Archives Department directly for a list of available images.

Out of respect for A.A.'s principles of personal anonymity and the honor accorded those principles by the co-founders themselves as members of the A.A. Fellowship, images provided are not for use on flyers, memorabilia, or any publicly available print media or digital platforms.

AA NATCON MELBOURNE

April 22nd - 24th
2022



**WE SHALL BE
WITH YOU IN THE
FELLOWSHIP
OF THE SPIRIT** P.164

www.aanatcon2022.com



~ Paltalk Meetings ~

To join a Paltalk meeting follow these steps to find a meeting:

1. Go to www.paltalk.com. Get your nickname and password. Use the free version.
2. Click on *Chat Rooms >> Health >> Overcoming Addiction*.
3. *“Follow”* the room to ensure you can join at the time our meeting rooms open. Please observe group protocol.
NO WEBCAMS!

SCHEDULE

Monday	9:30 pm	The AA Australia Unity Recovery Group <i><u>Book Study Meeting.</u></i> (room opens at 9:00 pm)
Tuesday	9:30 pm	The AA Australia Unity Recovery Group <i><u>International and National Guest Speaker Meeting.</u></i> (room opens at 9:00 pm)
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday	9:30 pm	The AA Australia Unity Recovery Group <i><u>Topic Meeting.</u></i> (room opens at 9:00 pm)
Saturday	9:30 pm	The Southern Cross AA Meeting Room <i><u>The Saturday Serenity Meeting.</u></i> (room opens at 9:00 pm)
TELEPHONE MEETING	2pm-3pm daily	Call (07) 5660 6012. Meeting ID: aaoztraliaonline. Access code: 7542562 PIN

NOTES

Tradition 7 donations may be made through the CSO by calling 8221 6888.

You won't be able to enter the room until the meeting opens half-hour before start or until the meeting is in progress.



SOBER TALK

community
radio

PBA FM 89.7

7.30pm 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursday of the month

www.aa-sa.org

1300 222 222

SOBER TALK is a Half hour radio show on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, A member shares their recovery story as a way of carrying the message. A public information service by the Para District Committee. Tune into PBA FM 89.7 or listen online. *Please share this information.*

Up coming speakers are advertised on Facebook. Shows are pre-recorded via phone call if you would like to volunteer contact Dennis F. 0421 223 349

The shows are recorded and placed on our website to further carry the message www.aa-sa.org/

SOBER TALK SA

aa-sa.org

1300 222 222

SOBER TALK IS NOW AVAILABLE
AS A PODCAST
"SOBER TALK SA"

Get it on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts,
or your favourite podcast app.
Also on Spotify and iHeart Radio.
Subscribe to get the latest recording and
please share.

<https://anchor.fm/sober-talk-sa>

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.

I Am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA always to be there.

And for that:

I am responsible.

THE TWELVE STEPS

- 1) *We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.*
- 2) *Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.*
- 3) *Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.*
- 4) *Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*
- 5) *Admitted to God to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*
- 6) *Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*
- 7) *Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.*
- 8) *Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.*
- 9) *Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*
- 10) *Continued to take a personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.*
- 11) *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 that out.*
- 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.*



**DARWIN DISTRICT
AGM
8th SEPTEMBER 2021
7PM on ZOOM**

**ALL WELCOME

POSITIONS
AVAILABLE**

DUE
TO COVID
LOCKDOWN
IN DARWIN
AT MOMENT
ALL FACE TO FACE
MEETINGS ARE CLOSED
UNTIL
LOCKDOWN
LIFTS.
CHECK AA DARWIN WEBSITE
FOR ZOOM
AND UPDATED
INFORMATION