

THE SERENITY TIMES

The monthly newsletter

of the

Darwin district

March 2022

STEP THREE

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him"

Here we are at step 3. We have become honest with ourselves and admitted we have no control over alcohol, our lives are unmanageable. We have also discovered we could not improve our lives through any human power. We now need to turn to GOD, looking up the dictionary depending on your beliefs God can be many things.

The English Advanced Dictionary writes God

Noun.

The supernatural being conceived as the perfect and omnipotent and omniscient originator and ruler of the universe; the object of worship in monotheistic religions.

.Supreme Being.

Proper Noun.

1. The single deity of several monotheistic religions.

.Dawn believes in one God but Willow believes in multiple gods and goddesses.

2. The single male deity of various duotheistic religions.

3. A spiritual and universal spiritual presence or force.

4. creator of the universe (as in deism).

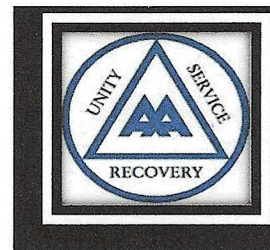
5. The (personification of the) laws of nature.

Reading the above we have a lot of choice in choosing a God of our understanding.

When we choose and put our trust in our choice, we can take affirmative action, that affirmative action is cutting away the self will we have lived by, which has blocked our way to our Higher Power, and putting our faith in our Higher Power by letting our Higher Power in, having faith that if we do what our Higher Power wants we will gain success.

Step Three represents our first attempt at this. The effectiveness of the whole AA program rests upon how earnestly we have tried to come to "a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understand Him*."

This step can be hard to fathom when you have always relied on your own self will, but remember that this step is the very key to your recovery. By using this key you are accessing the very answer to the question you have been asking yourself. How can I stay sober? You have had trouble sleeping maybe even dreaming you are drinking, itchy skin, feeling every sports injury you ever had all at once, it would be so easy to give in. But NO grab on to this step with both hands, put your faith in whatever higher power you choose and stop relying on your own self will. You will discover as long as you rely on your higher power you will succeed. Remember though, a few meetings and putting your faith in a higher power is not going to give you the permanent sobriety and happy useful life you came to AA looking for. No you have more work to do. There are 9 more steps to work through, you need to acquire willingness, when you acquire this along with relying on your higher power you should gain willingness to exert yourself and complete all 12 steps. Remember that in all times of emotional disturbance or indecision, you can pause, ask for quiet, and in this quietness simply say: "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. Thy will, not mine, be done."



Darwin District Darwin District serves the A.A. groups within the Darwin District.

Darwin District Office

Nightcliff Community Centre 5/18 Bauhinia St Nightcliff NT 0810

PO Box 40760

Casuarina NT 0810

Telephone 0889485202

Email: aadarwin@bigpond.com

Website: aadarwin.org.au

Office Hours:

11am-2pm Monday-Saturday

(Please call before visiting as we are short of volunteers)

District Committee Member **Vacant**

Chair- Alan B

Treasurer -Marg M

Secretary- Kitty D

Registrar- Sam H

Webmaster **Vacant**

Co-ordinator — Caroline B.

Maintenance Officer-**Vacant**

Public Information Officer **Vacant**

Literature Officer-Darren H

Treatment Facilities and

Correctional Facilities Coordinator-Darren H

Roundup Coordinator **Vacant**

Editor—Susan B

Next Meeting

The next District meeting for committee members

Thursday, 7th April 2022, 7pm via Zoom.

The next Area Assembly is, Sunday May 1st, 2022

9am via Zoom.

As you can see above, we have several vacancies on the committee, your service would be welcome. Come to the Next meeting on the 7th of April and nominate for a position. All you need is to be approved by your GSR and your group.

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.

RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

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.

TWELVE STEPS

Step One

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

Step Two

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

Step Three

"Made a decision to turn our will and 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."

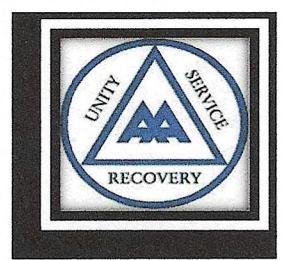
Step Eleven

"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 that 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."

MEMBERS STORY



38 years old, sitting in a park, ill, mentally, and physically, after a lifetime of selfish and foolish behaviour (Bill's story p7).

Sister Peta got me back into Rehab and so began another dry out, go to AA drudge.

Three, four weeks that's enough, tired of being dry I lay on my bed thinking of my next drink, I was a drunk, an alcoholic past caring, everything good was gone, life meant very little to me.

God moves in mysterious way's His wonders to perform (12x12, step11 p105). His spirit spoke to me, Kevin you are an alcoholic that's your problem, "Really" same voice, you need spiritual help more than physical help, "Wow" that is a huge spiritual experience to take in, I asked God to help me to stop drinking, I was starting a journey to freedom, that was in 1981 and I have not needed to take a drink since.

What happened to keep me sober? I moved back to Darwin where all my problems were, went to meetings, all of them, did service where I was able, John S started a steps meeting which was pivotal to my sobriety, Casuarina Friday Night was my home group for many years, some defects lingered but against the power of God in all the steps of our program they were eventually overcome.

As Alcoholics Anonymous grew in Darwin so did I, I was to experience freedom from the justice department, good employment and above all else Serenity, a word I never used or understood for many years.

My life now involves the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and thankfulness to God for all the blessings in my life.

Kevin. D.

(Thank you Kevin)



"...recovery begins when one alcoholic talks to another"

Foreword to the Third Edition – Alcoholics Anonymous

2022 Bill W AA Camp

With Al-Anon Participation

July 22-24 at Douglas Daly NT

Meetings, meditation, and fun in a peaceful bush setting – that's the Bill W Camp – now in its 27th 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.

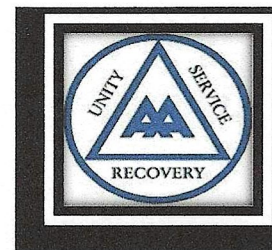
It's a camp, so bring your own everything including a chair for meetings. We do supply cold water tea and coffee – in your own mug.

The Douglas Daly Tourist Park reserves an area for us which includes a camping and vehicle site. If you are camping (\$20 a night) no need to book. The park also reserves us a few caravan sites close to the action. If you'd like to book a powered site, reserve a room or self-contained cabin **BOOK EARLY** – the park gets busy. Contact the park direct on 08 8978 2479 and say, "I'm with the Bill W Camp." For more information.....

www.aadarwin.org.au

Talk to one of our AA contacts – Mark P 0400 255 019, Susan B 0432 606 601, Susan C 0416 402 552

Al-Anon – Sarah 0407 013 395 Fay 0400 582 749 (text only) or alanon.alateen.darwin@gmail.com



Farewell to Natalie

A person who spent a lot of time helping others rather than reflecting on her own problems – that was the theme of those who paid tribute to our member Natalie M at her funeral on 3 February.

Natalie died at Royal Darwin Hospital on 22 January after a long illness. Aged 80, she had been sober for 44 years. Her daughter Marina said that Natalie was born in China. People may have wondered about her East European accent, but her parents were Russian. They escaped to China after the revolution and when they had to leave there, came to Australia in 1957. Sadly, at age 4 she lost her father.

Natalie married and had four children. But the marriage broke up and Natalie moved to Darwin where her mother was.

Marina said after her mother joined AA the Fellowship became a big part of her life.

Natalie's sister Marianne said Natalie was "more interested in how you were doing rather than reflecting on her own problems".

John S paid tribute to Natalie, recalling that he heard her speak at a meeting only once, but she constantly carried the AA message, talking to people after meetings and becoming a sponsor. "She spent a lot of time helping others," he said.

Natalie struggled with emphysema, going in and out of hospital in her final years. Hospital staff were amazed at her courage.

John said: "I have known Natalie for 50 years and her passing leaves a hole in my life."

I remember Natalie too, a regular at the Friday night Casuarina Group meeting, where she always greeted me warmly. I, too, miss her.

The service at Resthaven Chapel, Marrara, closed with *Amazing Grace*, after which the funeral left for Thorak Cemetery.

Bob W (Thank You Bob)

AA PREAMBLE

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people 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 to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

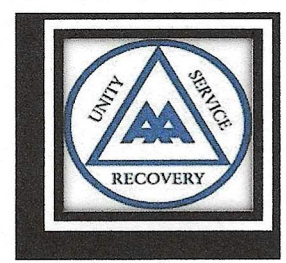
GOOD ORDERLY DIRECTION

It is when we try to make our will conform with God's that we begin to use it rightly.

To all of us, this was a most wonderful revelation.

Our whole trouble had been the misuse of willpower. We had tried to bombard our problems with it instead of attempting to bring it into agreement with God's intention for us. *To make this increasingly possible is the purpose of AA's Twelve Steps, and Step Three opens the door.*

TWELVE STEPS AND TRADITIONS, p.40

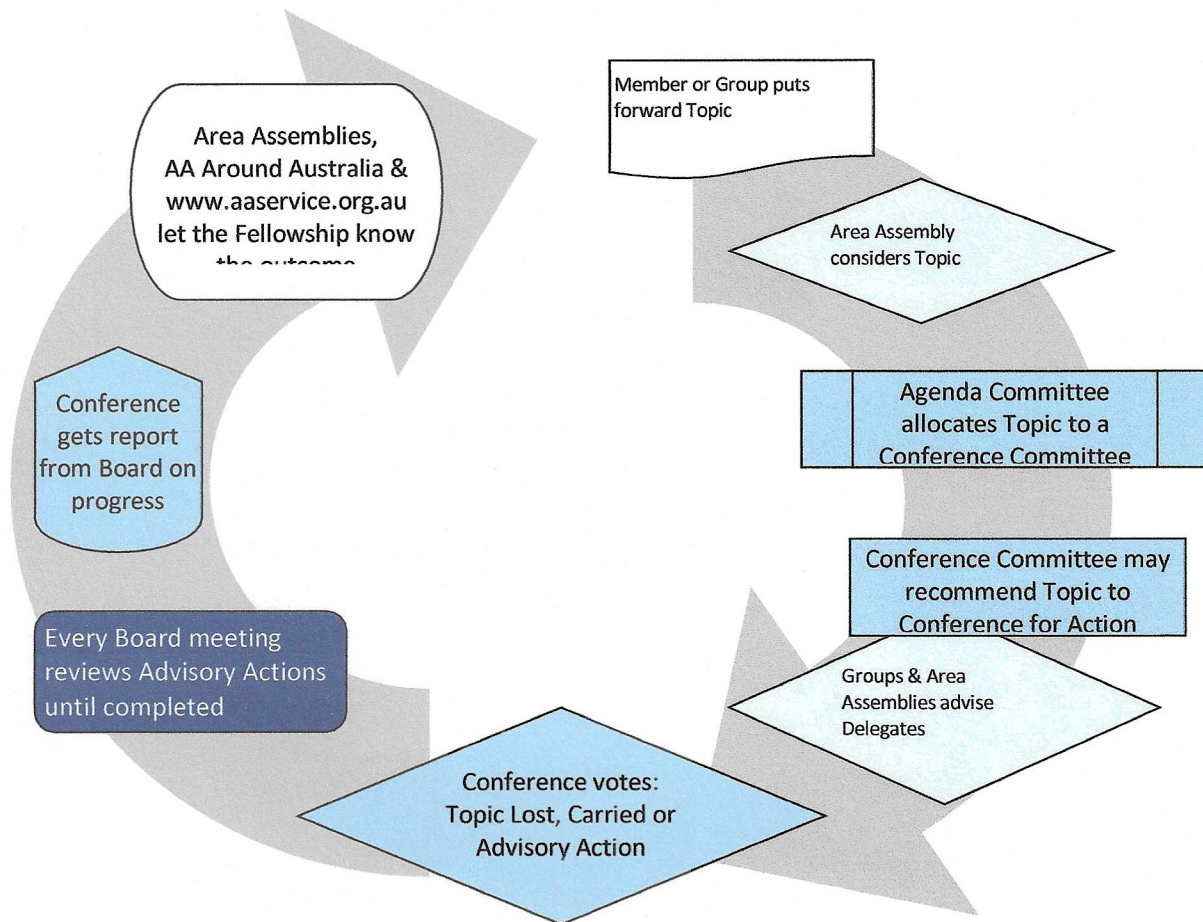


GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2022
THEME: RECOVERY + UNITY + SERVICE =
A FORMULA THAT WORKS

TOPIC FORM

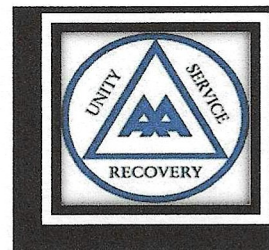
CLOSING DATE: 4pm Friday 24th June 2022
No Topics can be accepted after the closing date.

Topics are a mechanism by which members can get something discussed at the Australian General Service Conference. Conference serves the members and Topics allow the AA movement to express its views upon all matters of vital AA policy and all hazardous deviations from AA Tradition. The diagram below illustrates how Topics progress through Conference.



Conference prefers you to submit your Topic through your Area Assembly. However, if necessary, you can submit your Topic anonymously direct to National Office gso@aa.org.au or post to 48 Firth Street, ARNCLIFFE, NSW 2205. Either way, Conference asks that you provide at least one way to contact you in case it needs to clarify anything. (N.B. The General Service Office keeps your contact details confidential and does not forward them to Conference.)

PLEASE DO NOT ALTER THE FONT ON THIS FORM.
IF SUBMITTING BY EMAIL PLEASE SEND AS WORD DOCUMENT – NOT PDF



Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Do you wish to be involved in any working party formed as a result of this topic?

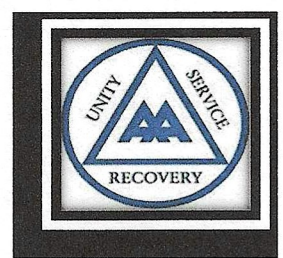
Ways to help get your Topic adopted

It is worth getting your Topic right because you cannot resubmit it next year unless Conference asks for its return.

Here is a checklist of requests that Conference makes so it can help get your Topic adopted:

- Each topic for Conference should contain a single issue.
- Is all content trustworthy and accurate?
- Does it leave out any names of members?
- Is it within the word limits noted on the Topic Form?
- Does it avoid Conference assuming responsibilities that belong to Groups, Districts or Areas?
- Does it avoid any endorsement of personal opinions?
- Have you considered submitting the Topic through your Group and Area Assembly?
- Have you added extra information as attachments or used a separate sheet of paper if you need more space?
- Have you provided contact details if the Topic does not need to be anonymous?

FIND A MEETING



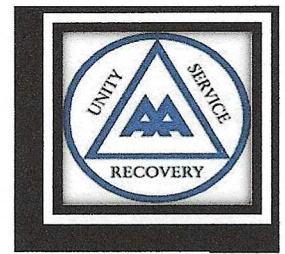
If you need assistance, please call the Darwin 24-hour helpline 8948 5202 or one of the contacts below

Darwin District Office – Room 5A, Nightcliff Community Centre, 189 Bauhinia St, Nightcliff. Open Mon – Sat, 11- 2pm.

- Telephone: 08 89485202 (24 hrs)
- email: aa.darwin@bigpond.com
- P.O Box 40760 Casuarina NT 0811.
- Website: www.aadarwin.org.au
- it is advisable to phone the office prior to visiting to ensure the office is open.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CURRENT MEETING SCHEDULE – 2021

- PHONE the GROUP CONTACT for any further information regarding each groups Zoom meeting or any other information that may be required
- **WHAT IS A HYBRID MEETING? – “FACE TO FACE” PLUS ON ZOOM SIMULTANEOUSLY**
- **Monday Lunctime 12 noon ZOOM meeting.** Contact Deb 0400496013” As Bill Sees It” Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/754317884>. Password: ODAAT
- **MON 6pm: “Daily Reflections” meeting.** St Paul’s School, “The School Library” *enter via carpark in Frances St*, Rapid Creek. Contact: Sam 0400579656.
- **TUES 12pm** Harbour View Room, Christ Church Cathedral, 2 Smith St Darwin, Contact: Darren H 0404299619
- **TUES 6:30pm. Big Book Recovery Group, Darwin ZOOM ONLY.** Contact: Alan B Ph: 0417494269 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81901842637?pwd=cnZCeJNFdFZSKzIHOGxtcjZQa2RPZz09> Password: BBKRG12S ID 81901842637.
- **TUES 8pm** Palmerston Group, Sacred Heart School Emery Ave, Gray. ID meeting. Macca 0403493968
- **WED 1:30 -230pm** Northlakes Community Room, Northlakes Shopping Centre,” As Bill Sees It” meeting. Contact Gillian, 0421115538
- **WED 7:00PM – “in all our affairs” meeting.** This meeting is a series of Workshops, Guest Speakers and sharing of personal experience, strength, and hope on the application of the Spiritual Principles of the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of AA in our daily living. It’s for fun and for free! ZOOM MEETING only. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85656704661?pwd=TWerczd5d0EyM1ljL0ZralFJU2VJUT09>. Password: 719924 ID 85656704661 Contact Mickg 0407657240
- **WED 8:00 – 9pm, I.D. Meeting.** St Paul’s Centre. Waters St (on the corner) Rapid Creek. Tony 0402733037
- **THURS 7pm “There is a Solution”. ONLINE ONLY** Driver Family Resource Centre, 29 Driver Avenue, Driver. OPEN. Contact Jane 0411502904 Click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87511870148?pwd=MEFpR251N1BqOnJsc3dnY3F5RW1mdz09> Meeting ID: 875 1187 0148 Passcode: 1212
- **THUR 7pm. FORWAARD Group**, 33 Charles St, Stuart Park. ID meeting. Tel 89236666. OPEN
- **THUR 730pm: “ID MEETING”** Contact: Peter, 0408422577 ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/646886679?pwd=WTIXSkQ2WGV1WGLNRIWIZBdnB3UT09> ID:646886679 PASSWORD: 180034
- **FRI 12pm ZOOM Lunctime**, “Steps and Traditions”. Contact: Debra 0400496013 Password: ODAAT <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/370603848>
- **FRI 730pm- 830pm** Casuarina Group, Nightcliff Community Centre, PANDANUS ROOM, 18 Bauhinia St Darwin, Contact John 0478595798.



- **SAT 10am** Womens Recovery (closed meeting), **CURRENTLY ZOOM ONLY** Nightcliff Primary School, Pandanus St, Nightcliff. For PASSWORD and LOG IN please contact: Marlene,

0438029196. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88222163496?pwd=WldFWktPeFQ2REpIMHVsbElzcHFRZz09>

- **SAT 730pm ZOOM "ID meeting"** Contact: Peter
0408422577 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/372559687?pwd=ZTIyamM4dWd4RHISZXplcEw5SWVZQT09> Meeting ID: 372 559 687 Password: 809225 ID:372559687 PASSWORD: 809225.

- **SUN 2pm "As Bill Sees It"**. Living Water Uniting Church, Challoner Circuit, Humpty Doo.
Contact Marg 0402602602. REOPENED AS OF 13/3/2022

- **SUN 7pm "Living Sober" NOW ZOOM ONLY.** Group Christchurch Cathedral, Harbourview Room, 2 Smith St Darwin. Martin

0407904030 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85680919015?pwd=SndRTXhldjl1dFBYa0VZUkRI RU1sZz09> ID: 856 8091 9015 PASSWORD: 414150

- **SUN 11am ZOOM Daily Reflections** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337043920> Password: ODAAT. Contact Deb H: 0400496013

- Monthly Darwin District Office Meeting (first THURSDAY of each month) at 7pm **ON ZOOM ONLY**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86504069864?pwd=ZWNiWEF3M0cyc1ZNbjhrU2RlVWdvZz09>
ID 8650 406 9864

PASSWORD 723 827

Contact Alan B: 0417494269

Other Meetings and Contacts in the NT KATHERINE

- Meetings are now **OPEN**
- Monday 730pm
- Wednesday 730pm
- Friday 730pm
- All meetings are held at the Anglican Church Victoria Highway & Kirkpatrick St. Contact : Kyra 0428393647

ALICE SPRINGS

- <https://alicesprings.aameetings.org.au/>

ALL MEETINGS ARE NOW OPEN

- Mon 5.30pm (Big Book study)
- Wed 5.30pm (Steps);
- Fri 7pm (ID);
- Sat 9am Women's meeting; **ZOOM ONLY ID: 476-077-040 Password: 476077040**
- Sunday 10am Daily Reflections
- All meetings Paediatrics meeting room, Hospital, Gap Rd. (no longer at DASA)
- Contact: Tom M 0408379422, Emma, 0417889957

Tiwi Islands

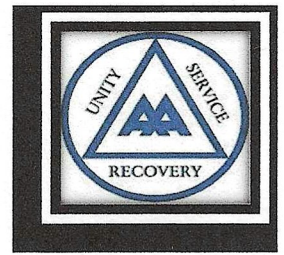
- to be announced

JABIRU

- East Alligator River Border Store Contact: Leon 0408985111 email: leon_65@gmail.com

WEBSITES

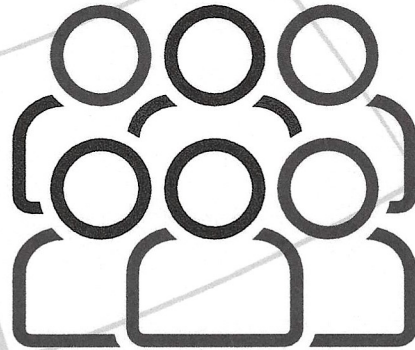
- www.aa.org.au aadarwin.org.au



***GOD GRANT ME
THE SERENITY
TO KNOW THE THINGS
I CANNOT CHANGE
COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS
I CAN
AND THE WISDOM
TO KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE***

AA MEMBER SURVEY

2022



LET'S FIND OUT WHO WE ARE



OR

Click For
Survey

Please distribute to
your AA friends and Groups

Survey Closes 30th June