



The Serenity Times

The monthly newsletter of the Darwin District Office

September 2024

Darwin District Office

Contact us.

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Service Opportunity

I am putting a shout out to all members who would like to be added to the 12th Step Volunteer list to be called upon when its necessary for a female to female or male to male chat over the phone or to make a face-to-face visit.

This is a great opportunity for sponsors to chaperone sponsees on their 12th step work.

Anyone interested in being added to this list can contact me via the details below.

In Service,
Sam H
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Email: mantha@y7mail.com

If you would like to be placed on the mailing list for the Serenity Times, please contact the Darwin District Office.

Send your articles and announcements to the Central Service Office via email and mark it to the attention of the Serenity Times Editor.

Your Darwin Committee

<i>Marg M</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Elina</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Matt DJ</i>	<i>Office Registrar</i>
<i>Kate S</i>	<i>Webmaster</i>
<i>Sam H</i>	<i>Office co-ordinator</i>
<i>Daz</i>	<i>Literature</i>
<i>Judelle</i>	<i>Public Information</i>
<i>Darren H</i>	<i>Treatment</i>
<i>Deb H</i>	<i>Office Maintenance</i>
<i>Andy B</i>	<i>Editor: Serenity Times</i>
<i>Andy B</i>	<i>Chair</i>

Service

Are you interested in increasing the amount of service you do?

If so, we are always after volunteers to help man the office, answer 12 step calls, attend rehabilitation meetings and more.

Service is one of the foundation stones of personal recovery. If you think you could be doing more, please reach out to a committee member or send an email to the office.



Step 9

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would harm them or others”

Step Nine is about **Justice**.

Step nine has four categories and one can be creative here. I would always recommend you speak to your sponsor and others before deciding on best approach.

“There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reasonably confident that we can maintain our sobriety.

There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good.

There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.”

Ninth Step Prayer

“Father God, I pray for the right attitude to make my amends, being ever mindful not to harm others in the process. I ask for Your guidance in making indirect amends. Most important, I will continue to make amends by staying abstinent, helping others, and growing in spiritual progress.”

Tradition9

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



The 12 promises

- 1/. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness.
- 2/. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.
- 3/. We will comprehend the word serenity.
- 4/. We will know peace.
- 5/. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.
- 6/. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.
- 7/. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.
- 8/. Self-seeking will slip away.
- 9/. Our whole attitude and outlook on life will change.**
- 10/. Fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us.
- 11/. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.
- 12/. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us—sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.



Pinky promise

Bill W Camp voted “the best”

“The best in Australia – love it – don’t change it”.

These were some of the many positive comments at a group conscience meeting held near the end of the 2024 Bill W Camp last month. The comments came from visitors, a number of them ending up at Douglas Daly after a tag-along which began at Lightning Ridge and finished up at Mount Isa. High praise from veteran “taggers”.

More members attended the camp this year than last, notably locals. There were 58 registrations and a rough head count at the Saturday night open meeting found more than 75 there.

We are grateful to the Caring and Sharing Tape Library for again coming this year, recording our AA meetings on USB sticks which had the bonus of meetings recorded on the Lightning Ridge tag-along. The recorders also provided some items for sale and light for Red Faces.

Al-Anon had two meetings, one of which was recorded, and participated in two AA meetings, providing an Al-Anon co-chair.

Those who attended the camp seemed to think we had a good mix of sharing and fellowship including some fun events like the damper competition, the auction (always fun) and Red Faces on Saturday night (which showcased some actual talent). And TB’s family again cooked us a delicious barbecue – thanks again to them, carrying on the memory of the camp’s founder.

The auction raised an amazing \$882 and members were again very generous with donations, giving us a surplus after expenses of \$592 which was distributed 60:30:10.

Bill W camp cont..

All up a great weekend in perfect weather - even if some locals found the inland nights a bit chilly. Despite a covid hangover and rising fuel prices (don’t mention the punishing air fares) the camp looks set to continue just as strongly in 2025.

The first planning meeting for that is set for Friday, 21 February if you’d like to be part of putting it together. Not a big commitment - but we do need some younger members to help collect the firewood!

Bob W



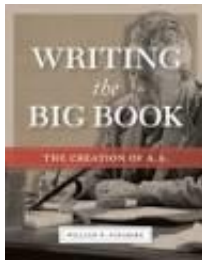
*God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change.
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.*

Me: My name is Andy, and I'm an alcoholic.

AANT: This is AANT, not AA.

Me: Yeah, I was just leading in to explaining how my car got in Lake Bennett.

WRITING THE BIG BOOK REVIEW



Review Excerpts:

“It has been over forty years since Ernie Kurtz wrote *Not-God*, the last truly professional treatment of the history of Alcoholics Anonymous. While many books dealing with A.A. history have been written since then, *Writing the Big Book* is the first to bring that same kind of exhaustive research, scholarly discipline, and informed insight to the subject.”

“*Writing the Big Book* presents a robust and vivid picture of how Alcoholics Anonymous operated and grew in its earliest days along with a vast amount of previously unreported details about the cast of colourful characters who made that group so successful. Most surprising is the emergence of Bill Wilson's right-hand man, Hank Parkhurst, as the unsung hero in this story. Without Hank there would have been no book, but his unfortunate slip back into drinking just months after it was published resulted in him being almost completely written out of the supposedly factual stories told later.”

“Fast paced, engaging, and contrary, *Writing the Big Book* will decisively change whatever you think you know about early A.A. history and the ways in which this book--so central to the worldwide growth of this important twentieth century movement of spiritual recovery--actually came into being.”

“*Writing the Big Book* is the result of eleven years of in-depth research into the formative years of A.A. Granted unprecedented access to the GSO archive, among others, the author reveals the inner workings of the early Fellowship, the conflicts, personalities, failures, and dispels myths of canonical texts such as *Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers*, *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, and *A Brief History of the Big Book*.”

“Relying, whenever possible, on primary, real-time documents, the author pulls various threads into a remarkably coherent narrative. While the story focuses primarily on the eighteen months between October 1937 (when a book was first proposed) and April, 1939 (when *Alcoholics Anonymous* was published), relevant events both before and shortly after those dates are fully incorporated. Across the span of these eighteen months, the wealth of available archival materials allows a week-by-week accounting of events, which is presented here through an amazing amount of previously unreported details in a comprehensive and compelling story.”

“-is based primarily on the wealth of 1930s documents currently preserved in several A.A. archives. Woven together into an exciting narrative, these real-time documents provide an almost week-by-week account of how the book was slowly put together. It is a story that unfolds with many unexpected turns and more than a few revealing departures from the hallowed stories so widely circulated by A.A. members in the past.”

Industry Reviews

Bill Schaberg does a great service to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous with his exhaustive examination of archival documents, separating myth from fact. The result is a clearer picture of the beginnings of A.A. and the development of the Big Book, along with a rich and compelling portrait of Bill W. Less myth produces a much better story.” - The Very Rev. Ward B. Ewing, D.D., Trustee and past Chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Retired Dean and President of the General Theological Seminary, New York; “Like a good suspense novel, this book captures the day-to-day struggles these few intrepid men encountered over those years” - Linda Farris Jurtz, Professor Emerita, Eastern Michigan University;

“Schaberg's study of Alcoholics Anonymous is a true gift to A.A. and its membership, past, present, and future.” - Kevin Hanlon, co-creator of the documentary *Bill W*. If you love early AA History or want to know more -then this is the book for you.

Until next time – yours in service. Ed