

April 2015
Volume 6, Issue 2

D-Liberation

Note from the editor

Welcome to another edition of the Area D newsletter. This is my first newsletter as editor and I would like to thank Area D for giving me the great privilege to serve our wonderful fellowship.

The first Area D Assembly of 2015 saw the remaining positions of Treasurer and Registrar filled. Congratulations to Jenny H and Angela T on their elections. The Assembly have reshuffled the lengths of terms of several of the Area D Committee members so that positions become vacant on alternating years.

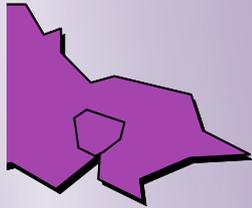
I look forward to receiving any feedback and ideas for other items or topics. The deadline for any articles/ reports for the July 2015 edition is 16th June. Subscribe or get in touch with the editor at areadnewsletter@gmail.com.

AREA D POSITIONS ON THE AREA COMMITTEE

Chair	Barry H (Moonee Ponds Big Book Group)
Secretary	Sue K (Moonee Ponds Road To Recovery)
Treasurer	Jenny H (Williamstown)
Registrar	Angela T (Seddon)
Area Webmaster	Susan H (Ballarat)
Editor, Area Newsletter	Chris H (Moonee Ponds Road To Recovery)
Area Delegate	Peter O'D (Carlton Tuesday)
Alternate Area Delegate	Anil (Moonee Ponds Big Book Study)
Area PI Coordinator	Rhonda R (Werribee)

Area Position	Email Address
Chairperson	areadchair@gmail.com
Secretary	theareadsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	areadtreasurer@gmail.com
Delegate	areaddelegate@gmail.com
Literature	areadliterature@gmail.com
Registrar	areadregistrar@gmail.com
Public Information	piaread@gmail.com
Area Newsletter	areadnewsletter@gmail.com

"The Unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our society has....We stay whole, or A.A. dies"
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p129



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www.ared.org.au

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The Area Delegate Report to the Area assembly

AREA DELEGATE REPORT TO AREA D ASSEMBLY - 1st March 2015

This Report is relatively brief, given that my election as Area Delegate officially only comes into effect today.

During February I did take the opportunity to attend two District Meeting: namely, those for Western Suburbs District and Calder District.

I also attended the Area D Committee Meeting which was held in Bacchus Marsh on 1 February. This was as part of the 'hand-over' of positions resulting from the December elections

I was involved, along with Terrence H and Mick C, in the planning and facilitation of the pre-Assembly Workshop held today between 11.00am – 12.00noon. The Workshop was entitled Your Voice is Valuable and provided those present with information on the following:

- ◇ The General Service Conference Structure
- ◇ What is involved in submitting a topic to Conference
- ◇ A brief explanation of the specific processes of the General Service Conference and some of the key elements of the Australian Conference Charter

The overall aim of the Workshop was to encourage Groups to consider submitting a topic to Conference by providing them with a better understanding of what is involved and how the process works.

I note from the Minutes of Area D Assemblies held over the past two years that approximately one fifth of the potential Groups in the Area regularly participate. This raises an interesting challenge for us and I hope during my term as Delegate that we can significantly increase this participation rate. Notwithstanding this observation, I note that for those who do participate their experience of Area involvement continues to be positive.

It is good to remind ourselves that there are three elements to being a member of the Fellowship: Recovery, Unity, Service.

All who attend an AA meeting and subsequently become part of a Home Group are well aware of the initial element ; Recovery

Our awareness of, and our involvement with, the elements of Unity and Service require us all to expand our horizons beyond the individual meeting and Group level. By doing this we not only enhance our appreciation of Tradition Five - Each Alcoholics Anonymous Group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose, that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers – but also enhance the quality of our personal recovery.

Yours in service,

Peter O'D
Area Delegate



The Area Registrar Report to the Area Assembly

Area D Registrar Report – March 1st 2015

All Registers are fully updated - this is an ongoing process as new additions and deletions arise. The AA Times Weekly Bulletins provide the necessary information to keep the group information (ie., venues, meeting times, new groups and the cessation of groups) always current.

We recently added another new group who are joining us from Area C who wish to participate in our Area Assemblies so that their group has a voice in all AA matters and also receive information on PI & CPC activities – a very big welcome to the "There Is A Solution" group from Glen Waverly. We look forward to your involvement and participation.

We currently have 106 groups in Area D. There are 54 GSRs registered (some for more than one group where that group runs more than one meeting) and 8 Alternate GSRs.

Currently the on line GSR Registration Form has been disabled - due to a scammer who has accessed it and was sending through up to 9 bogus GSR Registration forms a day. This is currently being addressed by the Area D Webmaster and the Online GSR Registration form will be available again shortly. However, the downloadable and printable GSR Registration form is still available on our website (aread.org.au). This can be printed off and filled in and scanned and emailed to the Area D Registrar (areadregistrar@gmail.com) or posted in to P.O. Box 535, Yarraville 3013.

I am anticipating that a new Registrar will be elected at today's Assembly. I wish to congratulate the new Registrar and wish them every success in their new position. I will be available to assist in the transition.

Finally, I wish to thank the Area for the opportunity to hold this position over the past two years. It has been not only a skills learning position but it has also given me a far greater insight into the groups that made up Area D. It has been personally a very rewarding experience.

Yours In Service,

Jenny H

Outgoing Area D Registrar

Public Information Report and Cooperation with the Professional Community to the Area Assembly

Area D Public Information and Cooperation with the Professionals Report
Sunday 1st March 2015
Compiled by Rhonda R
Area D PI &CPC Coordinator

The year has started to get busy now. In the past 2 months I have been to 2 District Meetings and visited numerous groups in districts other than my own to get my face known out there in Area D and speak about PI. From my observation, and from my own experience, there is some fantastic work being done but the troops are very light on the ground. For a couple of weeks I thought our new Delegate Peter O'D was my shadow but it was fantastic to see him at the district meetings as well.

I hope to meet with Peter in the coming weeks to discuss ideas on how we can encourage more people to attend district meetings and also increase the level of PI activity out there. As I said there are a lot of very enthusiastic people out there doing a fantastic job but we can do so much more.

As a result of local PI Pam F, Peter O'D and myself spoke to a group of counsellors from the A4 group of companies. This group includes Tracy Employment services and they provide retraining where necessary for people re-entering the workforce. A lot of their clients present with drug and alcohol problems. The session was very well received. There was a representative from Sydney and a Geelong counsellor skyped into the session. PI Packs were given to all present.

Over the last 3 months the Wyndham District PI has developed the relationship with this company and I received a phone call on Wednesday from them. They had a client in their Newport Office and they wanted details of our Williamstown meeting. They also mentioned they needed more literature in Newport. I rang Mick C and within 1 hour he had personally delivered this to the Newport Office. The company was most impressed and grateful. That is really great we could action so quickly. Thankyou Mick C.

The tag-a-long is racing toward us. 100 letters were sent to the professionals in Stawell, Ararat, Halls Gap, and Nhil. The response is not promising so far but Mick C and I are going to Ararat to hand deliver invitations and meet some of the Professionals. Interest is high from AA. Unsure about the numbers doing the whole weekend but indications are the meetings will be well attended.

I attended the Moonee Valley Festival on Sunday 22nd February. It was over 35 degrees all day. The crowd not very big but we were there all day. Many thanks to Calder District and the 8 AA volunteers who attended on the day. Whilst there I found out about the CBAA which is the governing body for the community radio stations. I rang them and spoke about the AA Community Service Announcements. I am currently putting a proposal together for them. They are responsible for distributing CSAs to the community radio stations nationally. I am not sure what the outcome will be if anything but nothing ventured nothing gained and there is no charge for this so here's hoping. I did send the CSAs to Magic 176.2 and am waiting for a reply. They are a community radio station as well so no charge.

We have been invited back to the Teen Expo this year in August. The charge will be for the electricity which is around \$300.00. This leads in well from the workshop we held on looking at the PI material for young people. I had some apologies and we had 2 people attend. This does not matter as the enthusiasm was through the roof. Some great ideas and really exciting things can be shared in the next couple of weeks.

The organizers of the Teen Expo were so pleased we are going to be there again this year. They said in their view AA was so vital to the community and were thrilled to have us at the Expo. I have resent an email to all the schools contacts we made last year from the expo last year offering literature and advising them of the availability of speakers.

Wyndham district manned a table at the recent Men's Health Expo at one of the community centres in Manor Lakes. This expo was attended by many medical services and community groups. We also are now on the mailing list to advise us well in advance all the different workshops and festivals the council holds throughout the year and planned for the next year in advance. We are listed also in the Council Community Handbook which is distributed to every household annually.

On the day we were invited to have a table at another men's health initiative on 15th March. This is very exciting and as it is a Sunday we have some of the younger males willing to go along. For some this will be their first PI experience. We also made some great new local contacts. PI Packs and 1300 cards were given to all companies who were in attendance at the expo. It was another fantastic day. The GPCE has also contacted us again. But as usual we are not guaranteed a table until the last minute if at all. They said there were many non for profit organizations hopeful of a presence. I will keep up the contact with them just to let them know we are still interested.

I had a phone call the other day from one of the contacts from the previous Expo and they advised me they still want speakers in March or April but the date is not locked in as yet. It's good they rang me. This is another example of the necessity for follow up and keeping in contact with people we meet. I have had feedback from other doctors who are very pleased they are continuing to receive AA literature as a result of last year's GPCE. Thank you to all the groups and individual members who are still providing this literature to the Professionals.

I have resent an email to all the schools contacts we made last year from the expo last year offering literature and advising them of the availability of speakers.

A new meeting opened on Saturday 27th February on Point Cook. The meeting is from 2 to 3pm and is based on Daily Reflections. About 12 attended so let's hope it is well supported. When we went to pick up the key we were speaking to the Office Manager of the centre. A PI Poster will be on the board next week. She is also going to put our 1300 number and website details in the local community newsletter distributed in the area each month.

All in all a lot is happening and I looking forward to seeing you all soon at meetings.

Yours in Service
Rhonda R



DISTRICT NEWS

An AA District is a geographical region within an Area containing a number of AA Groups, the number being dependant on the ability of the General Service Representatives (GSRs) to communicate between each other and to meet regularly together with comparative ease. A metropolitan District may cover a small area but contain hundreds of groups, while a rural district may cover many square kilometres but include a few as 3 or 4 groups. As the number of groups in an Area increases more Districts are formed, each one electing another District Committee Member (DCM). Each District has a DCM on the Area Committee.

Ballarat District

Ballarat DCM Report

Thanks to the outgoing DCM and Secretary.
Our last District meeting was on the 8th Feb and 13 members attended.

We held our Anniversary on the 14th and 15th February, which was well received. An estimated 120 people attended the weekend. The feedback from outside the District was positive.

At the District meeting Traditions 2 & 5 were read. The Treasurer's Report stated that we had a healthy bank balance.

PI continues to distribute meeting lists and "Is AA for you" brochures.

A few groups have brought to the district, discussion of changing to bigger rooms due to large numbers in meetings. It was decided that each group should discuss the matter at their group conscience.

Living Sober Group tabled the proposal to submit a Conference Topic. The topic was about the possibility of a book being printed based on members and their experience with the 12 Concepts. The District supported the group in submitting the idea through Area D.

The Minister from the Uniting Church approached the Mini Gallery regarding the drinking problem within the Sudanese community. Further discussions are to be held regarding how AA can help.

A budget is to be formed regarding the possibility of assisting in sending a member from the PI Committee to the PI Forum to be held in QLD in 2015.

Lastly I would like to thank the Ballarat District for entrusting me in a position of service and I am looking forward to working with the Area.

Mitch R
DCM Ballarat

Calder District

Again this year the organising committee of the Moonee Valley Council invited Alcoholics Anonymous to host a stall in the Community Organisations Marquee at the Moonee Valley Festival on 22nd February.

Thank you to the eight AA volunteers who manned the stall on this very warm Summer's day. Pamphlets were handed out and members liaised with other community stall holders and talked to the public about how AA can help people with alcohol problems.

In addition this year AA was invited to host a stall in the Man Cave organised by the Moonee Valley Men's Health Network. The Calder District organised a roster for the stalls and AA Literature was displayed and distributed to the public. Despite the weather a good response was received at the stalls by the thousands of public who attended the festival.



Geelong District

Geelong GSR Report

Big Book Thumpers Group going well, building attendance on Monday. There being more newcomers attending, we have opted to now have members going to Detox talks on Mondays because we want to be at our group meeting for them. Saturday morning Breakfast and Meeting a wonderful meeting with good sharing by older members and newcomers alike. Positions filled, financially supporting District, Area and GSO. Regular and structured Group Conscience the last Monday of the Month.

GSR Anny Smith

Western Suburbs District

Melbourne Western Suburbs District Report to Area D

1 March 2015

Melbourne Western Suburbs District has purchased posters and PI packs for delivery to police stations, doctor surgeries, correction offices, Youth Cares Hubs and Recruitment Agencies.

AA Literature including meetings books, little big books, various brochures that explained AA at a very general level and literature that explained AAs relationship with professionals has been displayed at the Salvation Army office in the Sunshine Magistrates' Court since 1 October 2014.

The district is currently investigating tram advertising in Footscray.

A new roster for Daswest Detox commences in Mid March. There hasn't been a week in the past year where members haven't turned up. Feedback from the staff and members going in has been both positive and encouraging. The district is continuing to provide literature in the form of little big books, meeting lists and pamphlets. Anyone interested in joining the roster can contact Danny on 0432 353 449.

A new Daily Reflections meeting on Saturdays at 2pm started on 28th February 2015 in Point Cook

at Featherbrook Community Centre at 33-35 Windorah Drive.

Steps in Seddon held a Successful Traditions Presentation by Chris & David on Monday 24 November 2014 at 7pm.

Laverton Primary Purpose Group will be having its 6th Anniversary Meeting and BBQ on Sunday 29th March 2015 at 6pm at Laverton Community & Education Centre at 12 Crown St in Laverton.

Next district meeting is Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 7pm at St Andrew's Hall at 91 Cecil St in Williamstown.

Wyndham District

DCM Wyndham District Report.

The district still currently holds 6 meetings per week. This consists of 1 discussion 1 big book study, 1 beginners meeting and 3 ID meetings.

The numbers fluctuate but the meeting is generally well-supported. We held a PI night recently and this was well attended by 85 people. Dr Jack Warhoft was the guest speaker

We are hoping to hold a professionals' lunch or morning tea so more professionals will attend.

We also recently took part in the teenage expo held in Melbourne. I saw the brochure in McDonalds, rang the organizers and 2 weeks later we were part of the event. There were approximately 8000 students in over 1.5 days. It was very busy and noisy

but very successful. We made up some games using AA material and tried to be interactive with the students. One very positive thing to come out of it was we got 6 foolscap pages of names of schools from all over Melbourne who wanted to receive literature or have speakers come to their schools. I have emailed all those schools who gave us their email addresses.

It was only 2 weeks ago but once I get the responses in I will pass on the requests to groups to follow up if they are out of our area. PI is still very high on our priority. We still go round to the Police Stations, Ambulance Stations, Fire Stations, Solicitors, Libraries, Community Centres, Youth Services, Salvation Army, Anglicare and Libraries in the area on a monthly basis to drop off

literature if they need it but just to let the different services know we are around if they need us.

Our faces are well known now so it has really turned out to be quite a social event. It gives us a fabulous boost to our feeling of usefulness.

There is a lot of work to be done still but we are making progress.

The Annual Women's Day was held in Werribee this year and once again a huge success. The reason I am mentioning this is because it was the first time the day has been held out west and 120 women came on the day. It just goes to show people will travel to attend such positive events.

Yours in Service **Rhonda**



INTERGROUP NEWS

Northwest Intergroup

Northwest Intergroup Report – March 2015

The North West Intergroup (NWIG) is an A.A. telephone answering service connected to the national AA 1300 number and is supported by local participating A.A. groups. Several more groups have recently joined in support of the service and additional volunteers have been added to the 12th Step list. Members can volunteer on a roster basis to answer 12th step calls that would be diverted to their phone number or be available to undertake 12th calls referred to them by the phone volunteers. The Intergroup website (<http://aanorthwestmelb.org.au/volunteering>) has been updated to include forms for registering to volunteer.

Bank account details are now also included on the website for groups (or individuals) who would like to contribute funds to support the service. Operating costs are low but small, regular contributions from interested groups would be appreciated.

Any AA local Group that is interested in participating beyond donations can have an Intergroup Representative (IGR) to attend the quarterly NWIG meetings. The next meeting is on Saturday 23rd May at 10:00 am, 6 Newcastle St Newport. The IGR informs their home group about the Intergroup Service and the local NWIG service opportunities available, much the same as a GSR does for the Area. Individuals are also welcome to attend.



Victorian Prisons Intergroup

The Victorian Prisons Intergroup (V.P.I.) is continuing to carry Alcoholics Anonymous' (A.A.) message of recovery to alcoholic inmates within Correctional Facilities throughout the state of Victoria.

Matters of interest arising from the most recent bi-monthly meeting of the group (Sunday, the 1st of February) are as follows:

An edited and updated version of the V.P.I.'s brochure has begun to be circulated within the Fellowship, including being mailed out by the 12th Step Office in Prahran, to over 125 groups across the state of Victoria.

Tom M has been appointed the V.P.I. Prison Co-ordinator for Port Phillip Prison and many thanks to Peter M, the out-going Co-ordinator for this facility, for his service.

Discussion was held concerning the V.P.I. workshop, to be held on Sunday, the 22nd of March in Yarraville. The format for this event was circulated and the sub-committee intend to meet to finalise any other relevant matters.

A four week program, known as 'An introduction to A.A.,' is awaiting staff changes to be completed before beginning at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. The first session will be presented by Dave and Chris, with the final 3 sessions to be hosted by Lynne G, V.P.I. Prison Co-ordinator for this women's Correctional Facility.

A weekly meeting of A.A. has begun at Middleton, the recently opened, 236-bed unit at Loddon Prison. Julian B, current V.P.I. Prison Co-ordinator for Loddon Prison, is acting as contact for members of the fellowship who wish to participate in 12th Step work at the Middleton Unit, and the group thanks Julian for his service.

With members of A.A. visiting Tarrengower Prison every second and fourth Sunday of the month to hold a meeting, the inmates of this Facility have taken the responsibility of holding their own meeting on the 'off' weeks, which is a fantastic development.

The group received reports from VPI members who visit the Langi Kal Kal Prison, the Metropolitan Remand Centre, the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Port Phillip Prison, Tarrengower Prison, Loddon Prison including Middleton Unit and Dhurringile Prison in which regular A.A. meetings are held.

The majority of contributions to the V.P.I. are used to purchase A.A. approved literature for alcoholic inmates and distributed in Victorian Correctional Facilities. Any Individual Member, Group, District or Area wanting to make a contribution to the V.P.I. can do so by any of the following methods:

The Intergroup's Bank account details:

Bank Acct Name : Victorian Prisons Intergroup
BSB : 063 541
Acct. No. : 1086 2793

The Payee name for cheques sent to the Intergroup:
'Victorian Prisons Intergroup'

*If a receipt is required, please provide the necessary details with the contribution.

For any and all enquiries regarding the V.P.I., service within the Intergroup or 12th Step work at Correctional Facilities, please contact the group using any of the methods provided below:

Email address : victorianprisonsintergroup@hotmail.com
Contact Number : 0425 055 269
Postal address : Victorian Prisons Intergroup
P.O. Box 262
Yarraville Vic 3013



12th step work in Correctional Facilities is a very rewarding experience. The V.P.I. seeks to encourage and support Members willing to go on rosters to participate in meetings within Correctional Facilities and be part of this valuable and much needed area of service. The group also welcomes any Members who may want to be of service to the Intergroup and may not wish to, or be able to, attend Prisons, as there are many service positions within the V.P.I.

The next meeting of the Victorian Prison Intergroup is :

Date : Sunday 29th of March
Time : 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Venue : Sacred Heart Church
9 Newcastle Street, Newport
(beside the Presbytery)

Kristy T
Public Information Representative
Victorian Prisons Intergroup

=====
... TO BE OF SERVICE..... *Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us.*

— ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 77

It is clear that God's plan for me is expressed through love. God loved me enough to take me from alleys and jails so that I could be made a useful participant in His world. My response is to love all of His children through service and by example. I ask God to help me imitate His love for me through my love for others.

Daily Reflections, p. 224

Southern Regional Trustee Board Meeting Report

On 14th & 15th February I attended the General Service Board meeting in Perth.

Some decisions/recommendations made by the board were:

- The Board ratified the appointment of David A as National Corrections Facilities Coordinator. Many of us David because of the great work he has done in Corrections in Victoria.
- On February 14, 2015- The General Service Board announces a solution to the banking needs of AA groups/offices . The Chairman of the Board, Maurice Smith, is delighted with the new arrangements with Bendigo Bank. Many AA groups/offices have difficulties establishing a good bank relationship. This new deal will solve many of your banking needs and we recommend it to you. Further information can be gained from The National Website.
- People involved in the planning of the Newcastle Convention will be first to be able to purchase the new big book.
- A flyer will be available for the offshore convention to be held in Fiji in 2016.
- The topic deadline for conference is the 24th June.

A General Service Structure Information session will be held in Area D on Sunday 26th April from 10.30am – 3.30pm, with a break for lunch. The venue is Yarraville Community Centre, 59 Francis St Yarraville. I recommend strongly that members attend this event. Members who attend will have the opportunity to meet Board members and an office staff members. There will be a role play segment which will demonstrate the workings of AA. Time has been allocated for members to ask questions.

Yours in service Michael C. Southern Regional Trustee

National PI & CPC Report

Much has been happening in the PI & CPC world. The GSB has initiated a rolling visit to EVERY Area in Australia, to inform members of the Service Structure. There is a PI component to these presentations. Even though the numbers attending have been small, the enthusiasm has been very high. New PI activities are springing up or being revealed all over the country.

In the 2 years I have had this service position, enthusiasm and action seem to have increased over time, and it is great to see the passion exhibited by members involved in PI. As you probably know, I publish a Newsletter each month, to which individuals, Areas and Districts contribute. It has grown from 2 pages to 10 ☺.

It is so important that the public and the professional community are aware of who we are, what we can offer, and that they have the correct information regarding AA. It is up to US to ensure they do. Unfortunately the apathy towards sharing our information is not confined to VIictoria.It seems to exist all over Australia.

If every member committed to 1 hours PI & CPC activity a week, imagine what we could achieve ? Anyone interested in being involved in PI & CPC or who would like to receive the Newsletter can contact me at:

Leigh F aanationalpi@gmail.com National PI & CPC Co-ordinator

REGIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATORS

We are seeking a co-ordinator in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Central Australia, Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Tasmania.

The term will be for the duration of the term of the National PI&CPC Co-ordinator (usually 4 years). This will leave the Regional Co-ordinators free to apply for the National Co-ordinator position when it becomes vacant.

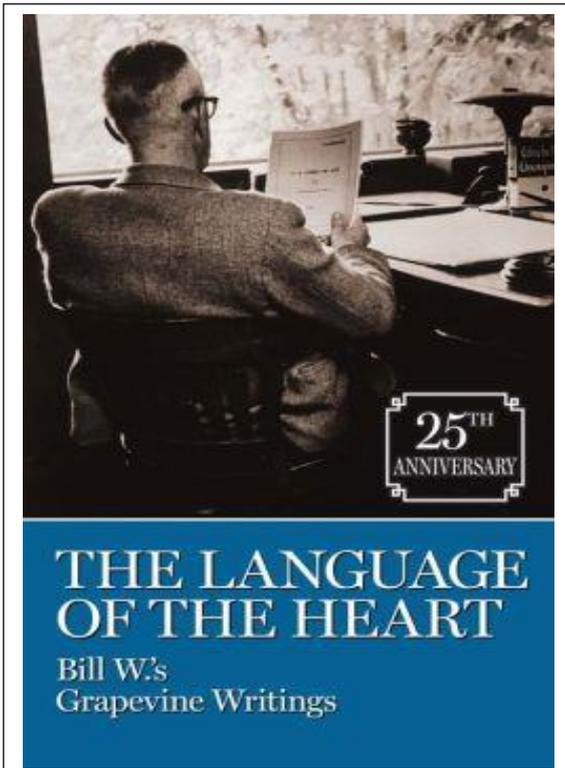
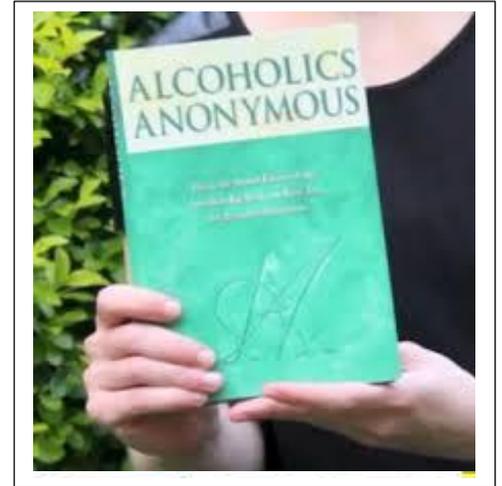
The co-ordinators will be the contact point for the National Co-ordinator and will assist in all relevant projects.

To apply please ring GSO on 02 95998866

What's new in literature???

The 2nd Edition of the Australian Big Book

The 2nd Edition of the Australian AA Big Book, which contains the stories of Australians who got sober in AA is being launched at the 50th Annual Australian National AA Convention in Newcastle on the 2nd to the 6th of April 2015



Grapevine's Signature Book The Language of the Heart

Between 1944 and 1970, Bill wrote 150 articles for AA helping to unite the Fellowship's new groups and hammering the principles of A.A. These articles gave a living history of Alcoholics Anonymous and the story of Bill W.'s emotional and spiritual growth. 2013 marked the 25th anniversary of *The Language of The Language of the Heart*.

Coming soon as an audio book, *The Language of the Heart* in many formats; hardcover, softcover, large print and ebook. A limited quantity of the Commemorative softcover print edition is available.

NEW GROUPS

A new meeting opened on Saturday 27th February at Point Cook. "Daily Reflections at Point Cook". The meeting is from 2.00 to 3.00pm and is based on Daily Reflections. Featherbrook Community Centre 33-35 Windorah Drive Point Cook Contact Jose 0413351055

Corio 11th Step Group Corio Saturday 3:30pm
90 Minutes Cloverdale Baptist Church
230 Purnel Rd Corio



Member's Eye View – Service STORIES

Being of Service in Area D: The Area Chair

One of the bleakest aspects of alcoholism is the loneliness experienced in our denial of the predicament in which we find ourselves. Most of us rarely shared with anyone the shame and guilt derived from our addiction.

When alcoholics first join AA those moments of identification with the experience of others tells us that we are no longer alone. We can now share those dark secrets of what we had done with other AA members who have been down that same sad and lonely path. That sharing is the liberation from isolation for us and we are accepted despite what our past has been.

When I first came to AA I also heard talk about "service". I was struck by the simplicity of the statement that one could do "service at the end of a tea towel". I took this to mean that there were many different types of service and that lead me to look at what skills that I may have

available to contribute. I saw that service would allow me to become part of an AA family and open a way to participating where the sense of isolation would be even further decreased. We do service with and for others as well as for ourselves.

As a result of my previous work experience I was familiar with things like meeting procedure, minutes, balance sheets and the like. I hoped that I could contribute some of that work experience to the benefit of AA. Around the end of my first year in AA I took on the role of Treasurer in my first home Group. Now rather than just feeling I was 'going to AA' I felt I was really 'in' AA and that I was a working part of the fellowship.

In the 12 years since I took on my first service position there has not been a time when I have not held some kind of service position within AA. After further experience as group Secretary then GSR I took on the role of DCM for

Calder District. Following that I was elected to the position of Treasurer for Area D for two years and followed that by three years as the Area D Delegate to the General Service Conference.

After a further three year period involved with AA Intergroups I am back with the Area D Committee as Chairperson. Every service position has provided a learning experience and broadened my knowledge and appreciation of AA. I trust that I can now bring that learning to my work as Chairperson.

To those not undertaking a service role I strongly recommend that you think about volunteering too. You may then feel that you are not just 'going to AA' but in doing service have become an integral part of AA and that your life is being enriched by that experience.
Barry H Area D Chair

At once, I became a part—if only a tiny part—of a cosmos ...

AS BILL SEES IT, p225



Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that the A.A.

Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence.

Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in

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action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

(from A.A.'s Legacy of Service by Bill W.)

Area Events

<p>Tuesday April 7th 7.00pm</p>	<p>Carlton Tuesday's 26th Birthday Church of All Nations Drop in Centre Basement, 180 Palmerston Street Carlton Genevieve 0423 572 097</p>
<p>Tuesday April 7th 7.30pm</p>	<p>Moonee Ponds Big Book Group 5th Anniversary Essendon Baptist Community Church 134/138 Buckley Street, Essendon</p>
<p>Wednesday April 8th 7.00pm</p>	<p>Glenroy Twilight 6th Anniversary Senior Citizens Hall 11 Cromwell Street, Glenroy Plenty of pizza for all, after meeting 8pm. Please bring a dessert to share</p>
<p>Sunday April 12th 3.00pm</p>	<p>Spotswood Womans AA Discussion Group 8th Birthday Spotswood Community House 598 Melbourne Road, Spotswood Meeting followed by light refreshments</p>
<p>Friday May 1st 9.00pm</p>	<p>Working With Others Group - Illustrated Step Four Presentation St Johns Anglican Church 1 Burgundy St, Heidelberg (Near cnr Rosanna Road) Ph: 0466 250 202</p>
<p>Monday May 4th 7:30pm</p>	<p>Illustrated Steps Presentation - Steps 2&3 Wayaperri House – Werribee Community & Education Centre Presented by Chris and David 106 Duncans Road, Werribee</p>
<p>Monday May 4th 8.00pm</p>	<p>Geelong District Meeting (including PI&CPC) St Mathews Church 230 McKillop St, East Geelong(Cnr Normanby St. (Home of Big Book Thumpers) Sue T 0417 562604</p>
<p>Tuesday May 12th 7.30pm</p>	<p>Western Suburbs District Meeting St. Andrews Hall 91 Cecil Street Williamstown Contact Belinda 0405 746 475</p>
<p>Friday June 5th 9:00pm</p>	<p>Working With Others Group - Illustrated Step Four Presentation St Johns Anglican Church 1 Burgundy St., Heidelberg (Near Rosanna Road) 0466 250 202</p>
<p>Thursday to Sunday 2nd to 5th July</p>	<p>International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous Celebrate A.A.'s 80th Birthday in Atlanta, Georgia Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta, Georgia USA</p>
<p>Friday July 3rd 9:00pm</p>	<p>Working With Others Group - Illustrated Step Four Presentation St Johns Anglican Church 1 Burgundy St., Heidelberg (Near Rosanna Road) 0466 250 202</p>
<p>Monday July 6th 8.00pm</p>	<p>Geelong District Meeting St Mathews Church 230 McKillop St, East Geelong(Cnr Normanby St. (Home of Big Book Thumpers) Sue T 0417 562 604</p>
<p>Monday 13th July 7.30pm</p>	<p>Illustrated Steps Presentation - Steps 2&3 Wayaperri House – Werribee Community & Education Centre Presented by Chris and David 106 Duncans Road, Werribee</p>

Area Events Cont-

Next Area Assembly:

Sunday 31st May 2015

Workshop 11:00am, Meeting at 1:00pm

Venue (in Melbourne) to be advised

2015 International Convention

Before you know it, thousands of A.A.s will gather together to celebrate A.A.s Birthday in Atlanta Georgia, July 2-5 2015. Excitement continues to build and the local volunteer host committee is ready to roll out the mega welcome mat for members from around the world who will join in the celebration. "80 years - Happy, Joyous and Free!"

There is still time to make plans. Registration for the 2015 International Convention remains open throughout the convention. There is plenty of room at the Georgia World Congree Center to welcome all registered attendees for the the hundreds of A.A. meetings that will occur and there is ample seating in the Georgia Dome for the Big Meetings that take place on Friday and Saturday evening, and the Sunday morning Closing Meeting. But don't forget the "Party in the Park' on Thursday night in Centennial Olympic Park to kick off Convention activities!



2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

July 2-5, 2015 • Atlanta, Georgia

Coordinated by A.A. World Services, Inc.

80 YEARS - HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE

| Pre-Registration Deadline: May 12, 2015 |

Opening Flag Ceremony Available on G.S.O's Website



One of the highlights of each International Convention is the parade of the flags of those countries represented at the Convention, which takes place at the opening Meeting on Friday evening.

Over the 2015 Convention weekend, unlimited access to an encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony will be made available through G.S.O.'s A.A. website (www.aa.org).

Access to the broadcast will begin on Saturday, July 5, 2015, at midnight Eastern Daylight Time.

Box 4-5-9, Spring 2015

Area Events Cont-

Invitation to all Southern Region Members

You are invited to attend a General Service Information session. Please bring a newcomer, if you can.

We plan to make sure you have fun, while learning some things you may not know about.

When? Sunday 26th April 2015 from 10.30am – 3.30pm, with a break for lunch.

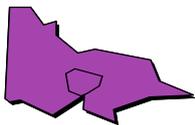
Where? Yarraville Community Centre, 59 Francis St Yarraville.

2 Trustees from the General Service Board, 1 General Service Office staff member, 1 World Service Delegate and 1 National Co-ordinator will be in attendance.

So that we get an idea of how many will be coming, please RSVP to tony@aa.org.au by 22nd April 2015.



About Area D



Area D Southern Region is a part of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Structure of Australia.

As such we fully participate in the Australian General Service Conference. We also support the AA National Office in any way we are able.

Bordered by the Yarra river, the Area includes the Western and Northern suburbs of Melbourne and extends to include other major cities such as Geelong and Ballarat, and regional centres such as Daylesford. (As of December 2012, Kyneton has elected to join Area B.)

Disclaimer:

Except for material identified as being taken directly from AA Conference Approved Literature, articles published in this Newsletter are the experience and opinion of the author, and are not necessarily the opinion of AA.