

October 2016  
Volume 7, Issue 4

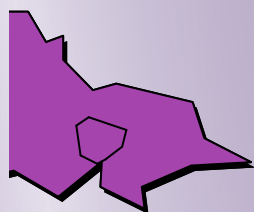
# D-Liberation

## Note from the editor

Welcome to the October edition of the Area D Newsletter. The positions of Chairperson, Secretary, PI&CPC Co-Ordinator, Registrar and the D-Liberation Newsletter Editor will be up for election at our next Area Assembly on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please consider taking on one of these positions. It is a great way to give back to AA and to strengthen your sobriety!

A special Area D workshop on districts will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The "Raising Awareness of AA in Our Local Communities" session will discuss the role and organization of our districts in Area D.

The deadline for any articles/ reports for the next edition is 14<sup>th</sup> December. Subscribe or get in touch with the editor at [areadnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:areadnewsletter@gmail.com). Any member, not just GSRs, can subscribe to the Newsletter at [areadnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:areadnewsletter@gmail.com).



**We're on the web!**

**See us at**  
[www.aread.org.au](http://www.aread.org.au)

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### AREA D POSITIONS ON THE AREA COMMITTEE

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Barry H (Moonee Ponds Big Book Group)</b>
<b>Temporary Secretary</b>	<b>Sue K</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Michael P (Heidelberg Working With Others)</b>
<b>Registrar</b>	<b>Angela T (Steps in Seddon)</b>
<b>Area Webmaster</b>	<b>Jenny H (Williamstown)</b>
<b>Editor, Area Newsletter</b>	<b>Chris H (Moonee Ponds Road To Recovery)</b>
<b>Area Delegate</b>	<b>Peter O'D (Carlton Tuesday)</b>
<b>Alternate Area Delegate</b>	<b>Anil (Moonee Ponds Big Book Study)</b>
<b>Area PI Coordinator</b>	<b>Rhonda R (Werribee)</b>

Area Position	Email Address
<b>Chairperson</b>	<a href="mailto:areadchair@gmail.com">areadchair@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:theareadsecretary@gmail.com">theareadsecretary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<a href="mailto:areadtreasurer@gmail.com">areadtreasurer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Delegate</b>	<a href="mailto:areaddelegate@gmail.com">areaddelegate@gmail.com</a>
<b>Literature</b>	<a href="mailto:areadliterature@gmail.com">areadliterature@gmail.com</a>
<b>Registrar</b>	<a href="mailto:areadregistrar@gmail.com">areadregistrar@gmail.com</a>
<b>Public Information</b>	<a href="mailto:piaread@gmail.com">piaread@gmail.com</a>
<b>Area Newsletter</b>	<a href="mailto:areadnewsletter@gmail.com">areadnewsletter@gmail.com</a>

*"The challenge of the Seventh Tradition is a personal challenge, reminding me to share and give of myself. I saw that I had to start carrying my own weight through the practice of the twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions."*

*"The Twelve Traditions Illustrated", p14*

## Area D Committee – Descriptions of Vacant Positions

### *CHAIRPERSON Job Description (Two Year Term)*

*The Chairperson:*

- *has a reasonable period of continuous sobriety;*
- *has an understanding of the AA program and of AA Traditions;*
- *has the willingness and availability to regularly attend Area Assemblies and Committee*

*Meetings;*

- *has access to a computer with the Internet and email facilities (preferably not an employer's);*
- *is able to organise and lead with humility, whilst ensuring that some action is taken on all matters;*
- *has planning ability and able to conduct meetings;*
- *skilled in communication;*
- *is aware of District matters and keeps the Delegate informed;*
- *is aware of what is happening in World Service and keeps the Area Committee informed;*
- *is one who lives in such a manner that others realise that Service to the Fellowship of AA is part of personal recovery.*

### *AREA D - D-LIBERATION EDITOR Description (Two Year Term)*

*The Area D-Liberation Editor:*

- *has a reasonable period of continuous sobriety;*
  - *has an understanding of the AA program and of AA Traditions;*
  - *has the willingness and availability to regularly attend Area Assemblies and Committee*
- Meetings;*
- *has access to a computer with basic publishing software, Internet and email facilities (preferably not an employer's) and a working printer*
  - *is responsible for the publication in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Area Assembly;*
  - *gets sign-off on the final copy of the D-Liberation newsletter by the Delegate and the Alternate Editor;*
  - *may co-opt AA member volunteers to assist with the publication;*
  - *produces an Annual Report for the Area Assembly.*

### *AREA D - PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATOR Job Description (Two year Term)*

*The PI & CPC Coordinator:*

- *has a reasonable period of continuous sobriety;*
  - *has an understanding of the AA program and of AA Traditions;*
  - *has the willingness and availability to regularly attend Area Assemblies and Committee*
- Meetings;*
- *has access to a computer with the Internet and email facilities (preferably not an employer's) and a working printer;*
  - *is available to encourage, assist & facilitate carrying the AA message both within & outside the AA community, ensuring that we always abide by the Traditions & Concepts of AA;*
  - *liaises & cooperates with Districts within Area D;*
  - *checks service website to ascertain what National PI incentives are occurring;*
  - *is aware of Conference Topics pertaining to PI;*
  - *writes reports for Area D & D-Liberation.*

**AREA D REGISTRAR Job Description (Two Year Term)****The Registrar:**

- has a reasonable period of continuous sobriety;
- has an understanding of the AA program and of AA Traditions;
- has the willingness and availability to regularly attend Area Assemblies and Committee

**Meetings;**

- has access to a computer with the Internet and email facilities (preferably not an employer's) and a working printer
- has a basic knowledge of Excel Spreadsheets
- maintains an up to date list of all AA Groups in their Area and all their registered GSRs as well as separate lists of each District within the Area with their DCMs and GSR information (names, email addresses, phone numbers and where applicable home addresses);
- maintains an up to date list of all members of the Area Committee
- prints out the GSR Sign In Sheet, Committee Sign In Sheet and Observers Sign In Sheet for each Area Assembly;
- ensures all those attending an Area Assembly has signed the appropriate Sign In Sheet and gives the Chairperson / Secretary the numbers of who is eligible to vote on any motion or matter;
- provides the Area Secretary with a list of all who attend the Area Assemblies for recording in the Minutes of that Assembly;
- ensures and maintains the privacy of all GSRs and Committee members' information – only giving a copy of the Master Group & GSR information to the Area Delegate and Area Secretary.

**AREA SECRETARY Job Description (Two Year Term)****The Secretary:**

- *has a reasonable period of continuous sobriety;*
- *has an understanding of the AA program and of AA Traditions;*
- *has the willingness and availability to regularly attend Area Assemblies and Committee*

**Meetings;**

- *has access to a computer with the Internet and email facilities and a printer (preferably not an employer's);*
- *arranges and advises of Quarterly Area Assembly Meetings and Area Committee Meetings;*
- *records agreed decisions and other business (minutes);*
- *reports back on actions taken and any known outcomes;*
- *emails or mails out and keeps copies of both electronic and hard copies of Area Correspondence as appropriate;*
- *works with the Area Registrar to maintain confidential email and mailing lists of all participating groups and their GSRs;*
- *works closely with the Area Committee and Groups to ensure the smooth running of Area business and the distribution of information.*

*SPIRIT OF ROTATION - "Do we practice rotating leadership, stepping out of office regardless if we believe others are not available, not willing and not qualified or do we remain frozen in office?"*

*"Traditionally, Rotation keeps AA members from becoming frozen in office. It also ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in AA, are passed around for all to share...to step out of an AA office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it is especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth--a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity...rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no AA "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise--we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed".*

*The AA Group Pamphlet p. 34*

# The Area Delegate Report to the Area assembly

Since the last Area Assembly on 5<sup>th</sup> June I have been engaged in the following:

## CARRYING THE AA MESSAGE

- Active involvement with my Home Group
- Active involvement with the meetings program at Port Phillip Prison

## AREA LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- Participation in the Area Committee Meeting at Bacchus Marsh on 7<sup>th</sup> August
- Communication with individual members who have sought my input on issues concerning them or their groups

## GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

### Ongoing involvement with the General Service Structure Review Committee.

In particular, working with Committee members to finalise a submission to be considered by the General Service Conference in November 2016. The Committee submitted a proposal by the Conference Topic submission deadline of 24<sup>th</sup> June.

The task of the Committee was determined by Conference Advisory Action 008/2015 which reads:

**"That a committee consisting of 6 Delegates (a balance of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year) and 3 Trustees be formed to investigate information contained in the background of Topic 008/2015 and to formulate a plan of how to conduct an inventory of the Australian AA Structure. The Plan to be brought back to Conference next year (i.e. 2016)"**

Subsequent to the submission of the proposal two matters have arisen:

1. The Committee was made aware of the fact that its use of the term Intergroup in its proposal did not reflect the general understanding of this term particularly as it applied to what can correctly be called independent intergroups: that is, those that operate independently of CSO and Area Structures. In the Southern Region two such Intergroups are the North-West Intergroup and the Victorian Prisons Intergroup. The Committee has therefore submitted an amendment to the proposed Plan to correct this. The proposed Plan outlines a very extensive consultation process which aims to be as inclusive of the Fellowship as possible and the amendment seeks to ensure that this essential element is not diminished.
2. Whilst the Committee was of the view that its Proposed Plan ought be considered a Conference Topic and circulated to members for consideration along with the other Topics, the Conference Agenda Committee, in keeping with the wording of Advisory Action 008/2015, has determined that the proposed Plan be submitted directly to Conference rather than be circulated as a Conference Topic.

I will provide more information on these two matters to the Assembly on 11<sup>th</sup> September.

In the meantime, I emphasise again that the Committee has not undertaken an Inventory of the AA Australian Structure but rather put forward a suggested Plan as to how such an Inventory may be undertaken. Further developments and outcomes will be dependent on the consideration of the suggested Plan by this year's Conference in November.

### Conference Policies and Admissions Committee

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August I participated in a teleconference of the Policies and Admission Committee from 1.00pm – 2.15pm

This is one of three Conference Committees of which I am a member, the other two being Committee on Correctional Facilities and Committee on Trustees

### Circulation of 2016 Conference Topics

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August all Area Delegates received a copy of the Conference Topics and any supporting information submitted with individual topics. On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August our Area Secretary emailed all of this to Area D Members and Groups who have provided us with an email address.

As you know we will be conducting a Workshop Discussion on the topics at 11.00am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, the day of our Area Assembly in Torquay. Should we require additional Workshop opportunity to discuss them, we will determine this at the Assembly.

I urge all GSRs to consider the Topics and discuss them with their Group Conscience before 11<sup>th</sup> September so that they can be as informed as possible when attending the Workshop. In addition, both before and after the Workshop and Assembly, I invite individual members and groups to provide me with any thoughts and views on any of the topics, preferably via email to [areaddelegate@gmail.com](mailto:areaddelegate@gmail.com), so that I receive them by 15<sup>th</sup> October. This will give me time to digest them prior to Conference in the first week of November.

I look forward to catching up with everyone at our Workshop and Assembly

Yours in Service and Fellowship,

*Peter O'D*

## Chairperson's Report to Assembly - June 2016

Chairperson Report to Area Assembly of 11<sup>th</sup> September

### Area Workshop on the role of Districts

In recent weeks I have spent some of my time on the planning of our Area's upcoming workshop on the role of AA Districts to be held in Yarraville on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The impetus for the workshop was that there are many newer GSR's who have not been made aware of the very significant role that Districts play in carrying the AA message to their local communities. Addressing this lack of awareness is a responsibility of all of us including our Area Committee.

Very active Districts outside Area D, namely the Peninsular District and the Inner City District, have been very generous in nominating speakers to assist Area D in the conduct of our workshop.

### The election of new Area Committee Members

Being a member of the Area Committee in several capacities over the years has been a broad education for me about the way AA works from the Group to District, National and International levels. I am fairly sure that this also true for anyone who gets involved at Area level in AA.

I strongly encourage any member who may be interested in the current Secretary vacancy, and those other positions being elected for in December, to pursue that interest. Don't hesitate to approach me or any other member of the current Committee with any questions you have about these positions. New committee members always get strong support from the other members of the committee. For anyone there is always a learning period involved and we are aware of that and will be available to help you.

Yours in service,

*Barry H*

Chairperson, Area D, Southern Region



## Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community – PI & CPC

Hi All,

I am back from my big trip overseas. Came back with no voice for 3 weeks. We thought it was quiet I hear you say. Well I'm back and ready and raring to go.

Meetings in Europe and UK different format to here. They go through the usual preamble and whatever topics the meeting is on and then the floor is open for anyone to share. It is amazing how long a few seconds feels when no one says anything. I normally love the opportunity to talk about myself but somehow could not bring myself to be the first one up. Really good fellowship and so many different nationalities especially in Brussels. All language of the heart. Amazing once again to experience going into a room full of people I did not know but felt right at home. Only friends I had not met yet. Amazing.

Now onto Public Information. As a result of our presence at the Practice Nurses expo earlier this year we have been invited to attend the Practice Managers Convention this month in Melbourne. Also as a result of that expo AA has spoken to Practice Managers in Perth, Bundaberg and Newcastle. The feedback was amazing. Some of the attendees emailed saying how grateful they were we were there and how the personal stories they heard helped them understand more about Alcoholism and how AA worked. We are having an AA table at the Geelong Show in October for 4 days and also we have the General Practitioners expo in November in Melbourne. That tops off our commitments PI wise as far as expos go. Another really busy year.

The PI Sub Committee is meeting on the 23rd October for the final time this year at the Yarraville Community Centre at 1pm. This meeting will be to discuss fundraising for 2017.

Many thanks to all the members who took part in fundraising, all the groups who have donated to Area D PI and all members who gave their time in service. Without you all we would not be able to go out and give Literature to the Professionals. We will never know how many people have come into AA as a result of this service.

I rotate off Area D PI at the end of this year. Many many thanks to all. Lets make 2017 the best PI year yet.

Yours in Service

*Rhonda R*

[piaread@gmail.com](mailto:piaread@gmail.com)

Next PI & CPC Sub-Committee Meeting is being held on:

Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 at 1 - 3PM

Venue: Yarraville Community Centre

59 Francis Street, YARRAVILLE 3013

## Area D Registrar Report

Welcome to those new and current GSRs within Area D. Your participation ensures your home group has information about AA events, within Area D, around Australia and AA World Services.

Our Area consists of 114 groups with 142 meetings held weekly; of these only 43 have a registered representative. GSRs are the individual AA groups representative who vote on behalf of the group at all motions presented at the Area Assembly. The group conscience advises the GSR on how to vote. The Area Delegate provides the link between Area and the General Service Conference, whilst the Southern Regional Trustee provides the link between the Area and the General Service Board.

All information supplied by the GSR is confidential – names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. When you sign in for each Area Assembly can you check your details are up to date? The Area D registration form is available on the Area D website for download.

In Service

*Angela T*

Area D Registrar



## Treasurer's Report

This is the treasurers report for the period 18.05.2016 to 27.08.2016.

The Area received donations from the groups of \$2216. This included an anonymous donation of \$960. Group donations were double that of the previous quarter.

The Area made a profit of \$315 on group Literature Orders which was up from \$79 last quarter.

There are no outstanding invoices and the only expected expense is the next Conference levy payment of \$670 which will be due in December 2016.

Allowing for the prudent reserve of \$1300, the Area has available funds of \$3657.58

The Area is also holding \$830.33 for the PISC.

I am always available to answer any questions you have regarding the Area D finances.

Yours in service

*Michael P*



*"We cannot skimp"*

*With the realization that A.A. must steer clear of outside contributions in order to maintain its autonomy and independence came the understanding that the money necessary for A.A.'s survival would have to come from individual A.A. members and groups. As Bill W. put it in 1957, "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility — one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid."*

*"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."*

*The Language of the Heart, p. 221*

*Pamphlet "Self-Support Where Money and Spirituality Mix"*

## 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 District DCM Report from District meeting 7/8/16

Business attended to:

**Literature Co-ordinator** acknowledgement of previous Literature person being AWOL and new Co-ord voted in. This is Cath from Saturday lunchtime. Group decided to cut losses from last Co-ord as they were not responding to enquiries.

**Upcoming elections** some discussion re sober time requirements vs people available to fill the positions. Upcoming positions due for rotation are DCM, Secretary and Phoneline Coordinator.

**Discussion re role of District in Ballarat** and ways to engage the groups in discussion around this. Treasurer will prepare a brief document about this to circulate to the groups.

**Phoneline Co-ord** has not been in contact with the District for a while. Treasurer will approach her re getting reports to the District.

**Bank signatories** need to be changed. New signatories will be Susan, Cath and David M.

**Grand final day** PI will organise this day. Any funds raised will go to Ballarat District.

**PI Professional Community Lunch proposal**- a well researched proposal was put to the District by the PI Chair. Concerns were raised about costs and a decision deferred for now.

**Black Tie Fundraiser** - We had our black tie fundraiser at the mechanics institute on Saturday the 17th of September in Ballarat. Fifty-three people attended and it was fantastic to see alcoholics have a good time. \$700 was raised after all expenses so that was wonderful. \$350 will go to our district and \$350 to Area D the committee would like to thank all who attended. The catering team gave us good food.

Thankyou to the ladies who gave us the beautiful opera - we are truly blessed. The mechanics institute was so very helpful, so thank you to David. Wonderful to be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### Calder District

The next Calder District Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 10th November at 7.30pm at Flemington Neighbourhood House Learning Centre 28 Farnham Street Flemington. All GSRs and members will be made most welcome!

### Geelong District

We currently have no DCM but the District is happy for communication between the Geelong District and Area D to occur via Anny S.

The Geelong Convention is coming up on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> at Christ Church Corner Moorabool & McKillop Streets Geelong. Registration is \$10, which includes morning tea, BBQ lunch and afternoon tea.

### Western Suburbs District

The Western Suburbs Committee will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm at St Andrew's Hall 91 Cecil Street Williamtown. GSRs and members are most welcome. Please contact Contact Con 0487678787





## Wyndham District

### Wyndham AA District Report

My name is Tony M. I am the Werribee Friday night ID Group GSR. Due to the sudden and unexpected resignation of Barb N. and our previous secretary Melissa T., as stated and not quite correctly reflected in our district meeting minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016, I have been nominated as our interim DCM, up until February 2017.

In the meantime, the Wyndham District members will encourage new enthusiasm and interest among new and old members, to become involved and continue to grow the District. Hopefully we can attract a new DCM and alternate DCM by the February meeting.

I would like to thank Pat D from the Werribee Thursday night Beginners Group for accepting the nominating of Wyndham District secretary. As well as our treasurer Michelle L. for her commitment and effort to the district.

On behalf of the Wyndham District groups and members I would like to express to Barb and Melissa our gratitude and thanks for the effort and the work they carried out, for the betterment of AA, and in particular the Wyndham District.

I am also happy to announce that the District will be holding our family BBQ again this year at the Werribee Mansion picnic area on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016. We will seek to attract groups and member's involvement in the coming weeks and have fliers about the event soon after.

Tony M

Interim Wyndham DCM

## INTERGROUP NEWS

### NORTHWEST INTERGROUP

Northwest Intergroup Report – September 2016

#### How can my A.A. group be of service?

The North West Intergroup (NWIG) offers several options for service. This A.A. telephone answering service is connected to the national AA 1300 number and is supported by local participating A.A. groups in northwest Melbourne. There are several ways that you or your group can help:



- **By contributing financially on a regular basis.** Operating costs are low but small, regular contributions from interested groups would be appreciated. No matter how small, every contribution helps. (Individuals can also contribute). Bank account details are now also included on the website for groups (or individuals) who would like to contribute funds to support the service. See <http://aanorthwestmelb.org.au/contributions>
- **Be a volunteer on a roster basis to answer Help Line calls.** Calls are diverted to your phone number at a time period you nominate. You can learn all about this frontline service at our annual workshop.
- **Be available to undertake 12th step calls referred to you by the phone volunteers.** You can nominate times you are available and the area that you can cover.
- **See that your group has a voice at the quarterly IGRs meeting:** 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 in November. 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.

The Intergroup website (<http://aanorthwestmelb.org.au/volunteering>) includes forms for registering either as a phone volunteer or as a 12<sup>th</sup> stepper.

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> of July) are as follows:

- The V.P.I. is seeking members willing to commit to the service positions of Treasurer and Secretary
- Weekly meetings have resumed at the Metropolitan Remand Centre on Mondays between 10am and 11am. Members interested in attending meetings at the facility are encouraged to contact the V.P.I.
- A.A. meetings at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre are continuing to be facilitated and women interested in joining the roster are encouraged to contact the V.P.I.
- The group received reports from V.P.I. members who attend meetings at Loddon Prison and the Middleton Unit, Port Phillip Prison and Langi Kal Kal Prison

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 enquiries regarding the V.P.I., service within the Intergroup or 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

12<sup>th</sup> 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 the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October**

**Time : 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

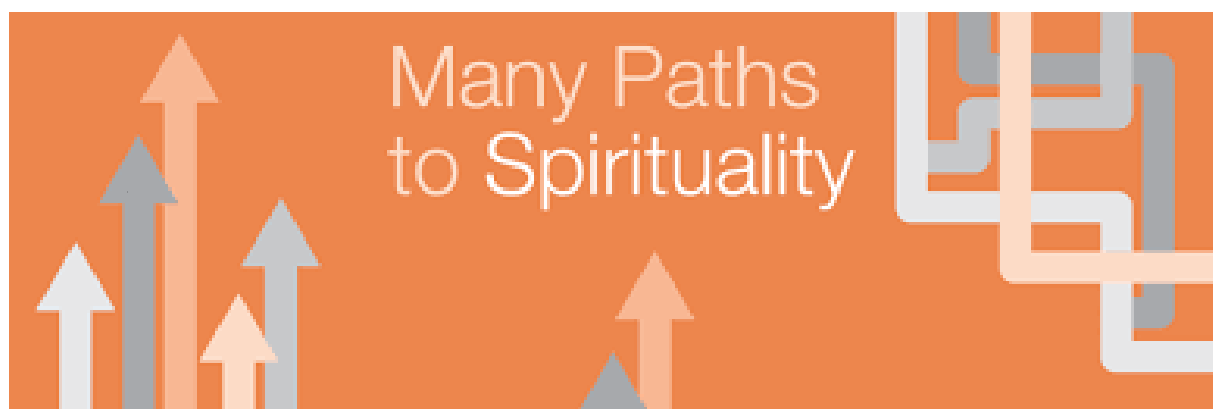
**Venue : Sacred Heart Church**

**9 Newcastle Street, Newport  
(beside the Presbytery)**

*Kristy T*

Public Information Representative  
Victorian Prisons Intergroup

## What's new in literature??



Many Paths to Spirituality Pamphlet  
Sharing from AA members, a  
which presents a wide range of spiritual experience.

## Member's Eye View – Service STORIES

### Public Information Representative Victorian Prisons Intergroup

*My experience, strength  
and hope of service in  
Alcoholics Anonymous.*

Reflecting on six and half years of sobriety and service in Alcoholics Anonymous has allowed me to truly appreciate the incredible opportunities that my involvement in service created and what strength it has contributed to my sobriety. My experience in service began within weeks of becoming a member of the fellowship, beginning as a greeter for my home group. Although somewhat reluctant at first, as these experiences initially, and still at times, take me out of my comfort zone, the rewards I receive in return always by far outweigh any costs.

In time, my involvement in service grew beyond the home group, becoming involved in district, Area and Intergroup. Through this, I have had the privilege of carrying A.A.'s message of recovery into detox centres and prisons. I have had the opportunity to travel interstate, to Adelaide and Sydney, to participate in forums and conferences. In short, service has taken me to places I would never have imagined, all of which I am truly grateful.

Perhaps one of the greatest gifts I have received from being of service in Alcoholics Anonymous is the opportunity to have met some of the fellow members I have, whose paths I may not have otherwise crossed. The support, knowledge, and encouragement I received from others helped me considerably in my service positions and in turn strengthened my

sobriety. Additionally, the friendships that were formed as a result of these interactions is something I truly treasure.

Whilst I feel my journey in sobriety and service is only just beginning, I already know from being of service, I receive so much in return. In the beginning, service gave me a sense of belonging that I had not felt for as long as I could remember. It taught me how to be responsible, that over the years of drinking, I had forgotten how to be. And today, for me service gives me the opportunity to give back to the fellowship to which I owe my life. I will never be able to repay all that Alcoholics Anonymous has given to me however I believe service provides me the opportunity to express my gratitude.

**Kristy T**

Public Information  
Representative  
Victorian Prisons Intergroup

## Women's Day Report

Another fantastic Women's Day was had by approximately 130 ladies.

All that attended were very happy with the Centenary Hall venue, program and the fabulous catering of the food done by Ballarat.

The committee wishes to thank all those who participated or helped in any way to make the day a huge success. A big thanks to groups who sponsored an urn on the day.

We had visitors from Tasmania, Sydney and all over Victoria in attendance.

The committee would like to donate \$500 to Area D for P.I. work in the area.

Anyone who would like to join the Women's Day committee for next year would be more than welcome.

*Dawne Mc*



### **'RAISING AWARENESS OF AA IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES'**

#### **AN AREA D WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE AND ORGANISATION OF OUR DISTRICTS**

**When: 1.45pm – 4.15pm**

**Saturday 15th October, 2016**

**Where: Yarraville Community Centre (Room 2, upstairs)**

**59 Francis Street Yarraville, 3013**

#### **Workshop Aims:**

The early part of the workshop will include some historical background on the establishment of the current Districts boundaries in Area D. Then guest speakers from active Districts, both from within and from outside Area D, will discuss the District work they are currently undertaking, projects undertaken in the past and future projects being considered or planned.

The aims of the workshop are to generate discussion both within and between our Area D groups about whether adequate AA activity is being undertaken at their own general community level. Some consideration will also be given to whether the current District boundaries are still appropriate for the suburban Districts. There will be time for questions and there will be room for a full general discussion as the final component of the workshop.

**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME – PLEASE COME AND PARTICIPATE**

**Contact: Barry H 0421 591 754, Sue K 0413 576 541, Glenn B 0417 130**

### **ELECTION AREA D ASSEMBLY FOR 2016**

**4 Dec 2016 TBA**

## Area Events

<b>Friday October 7<sup>th</sup> 9.00pm</b>	<b>Working With Others Group - Illustrated Step Four Presentation</b> St Johns Anglican Church 1 Burgundy St, Heidelberg (Near cnr Rosanna Road) Between the 7:30pm and 10:00pm meetings Contact (03) 9028 2212
<b>Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> 1:45pm - 4:15pm</b>	<b>Workshop 'The Organisation and Role of Districts in Carrying the AA Message'</b> Room 2, First floor , Yarraville Community Centre 59 Francis St Yarraville (including a tea & coffee break about midway through) Area D Committee
<b>Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm</b>	<b>First and Twelfth panel Discussion</b> Community & Education Centre 12 Crowne St Laverton Danny 0432 353 449
<b>Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm</b>	<b>North Melbourne Old Timers Meeting</b> St Mary's Hall 436 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne (Near Howard Street)
<b>Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1.00pm</b>	<b>PI Sub Committee</b> Yarraville Community Centre 59 Francis Street Yarraville
<b>Saturday to Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Ballarat Steps Weekend 'Here Are the Steps We Took...'</b> Old Queen St Primary School Corner Queen St North and Dyte Parade, Ballarat East Registration \$30 includes lunch both days sue_jh@hotmail.com Dave A 0408 519946
<b>Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30am</b>	<b>Victorian Prisons Intergroup Meeting</b> Opportunity for Service and 12th Step Work Sacred Heart Church 9 Newcastle Street, Newport (beside the Presbytery) Email: victorianprisonsintergroup@hotmail.com Contact: 0425 055 269
<b>Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup> Dinner 6:00pm Presentation 7:00pm</b>	<b>Steps 4, 5 and 6 Presentation - Men in Sobriety Ballarat Group</b> Presentation by Jason from Torqay Eastwood Leisure Complex 20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat Bring a plate of food to share and your Big Book Liam 0423945436
<b>Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm</b>	<b>North Melbourne 63rd Anniversary</b> St Mary's Hall 436 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne
<b>Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup> 8.00pm</b>	<b>Coburg Anniversary Meeting - Cup Day</b> Elderly Citizens Club 21 Harding Street, Coburg
<b>Monday November 7<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm</b>	<b>Kilmore AA's 36th anniversary</b> Kilmore Community Centre 38 Victoria Parade, Kilmore (Not at the usual Monday night venue) Followed by legendary supper and fellowship.
<b>Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm</b>	<b>Western Suburbs District Meeting</b> St Andrew's Hall 91 Cecil Street Williamstown Contact Con 0487678787
<b>Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b>	<b>Calder District Meeting</b> Flemington Neighbourhood House Learning Centre 28 Farnham Street Flemington.



<b>Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm</b>	<b>Wyndham District Family BBQ</b> Werribee Park Mansion- Hotel Entrance K-Road Werribee South (via left picnic area) Enjoy fun and fellowship unity Donations accepted
<b>Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm</b>	<b>Ballarat Mini Gallery 33rd Anniversary</b> St Andrew's Uniting Church Cnr Sturt & Dawson Streets, Ballarat (Opposite St Patricks)
<b>Saturday to Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>AA Diamond Valley Rally</b> A good, old fashioned, country style AA rally. Fellowship, sharing, and great food. Meetings all day. Fun entertainment Saturday night and a late, late meeting. Hurstbridge Community Hub 50 Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge Hosted by the Diamond Reflections AA Group with help from other local AA groups. Registration \$20 (if you can afford it) includes lunch both days. Info: Chris L 0414 948 345
<b>Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> Sausage Sizzle 6:30pm Meeting 8:00pm</b>	<b>Back to Essendon Meeting</b> Uniting Church Hall 132 Keilor Road, Essendon North
<b>Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> 9.30am</b>	<b>Geelong Convention</b> With Al-anon participation Christ Church Cnr Moorabool & McKillop Sts, Geelong (map) Registration \$10.00 Dave 0484637996
<b>Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.00pm</b>	<b>Working With Others Group - Illustrated Step Four Presentation</b> St Johns Anglican Church 1 Burgundy St, Heidelberg (Near cnr Rosanna Road) Between the 7:30pm and 10:00pm meetings (03) 9028 2212
<b>Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm</b>	<b>Area D Assembly</b> Venue TBA
<b>Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b>	<b>Illustrated Steps Presentation - Steps 10,11 &amp; 12</b> Wayaperri House - Werribee Community & Education Centre 106 Duncans Road, Werribee Followed by supper Contact: Eddie 0409918443

#### Attraction, Not Promotion

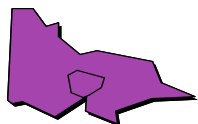
*"Through many painful experiences, we think we have arrived at what that policy ought to be. It is the opposite in many waysof usual promotional practice. We found that we had to rely upon the priciple of attraction rather than promotion."*

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pp 180-181*

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*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pp 180-181*

### 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.