

SECTION 1

INFORMATION

AGENDA
58th AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
NOVOTEL HOTEL
CNR. PRINCESS STREET & GRAND PARADE, BRIGHTON LE SANDS, NSW

Thursday 3rd – Sunday 6th November 2016

Date & Time	Session
Thursday 3rd Nov	
11.30am – 12.30pm	Meeting of the General Service Board
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Meeting of the General Service Board
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Delegates & Observers Meeting
3.00pm – 4.00pm	Presentation by solicitor (Mark Gardiner)
4.00pm – 4.30pm	Recital of Declaration of Unity
	Reading of Twelve Traditions (long form)
	Reading of the Twelve Concepts
	Roll Call/Getting to know you – self intro
	Opening address – Chairman – GSB (Brett F)
	Presentation on Fiji Convention financial report (Maurice Smith)
	Presentation on Conference theme (Melinda M)
4.30pm – 6.00pm	Report Charter & Service Manual Committee International Committee
6.00pm – 7.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.30pm	Treatment Facilities Committee Correctional Facilities Committee
Friday 4th Nov	
7.30am – 8.30am	Breakfast
8.30am – 8.40am	Preview Days Events
8.40am – 10.30am	Policies & Admissions Committee PI&CPC Committee Finance Committee
10.30am–11.00am	Morning Tea
11.00am – 1.00pm	Remote Communities Committee Literature Committee Conference Committee on Trustees
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm – 3.15pm	Conference Agenda Committee
3.15pm – 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea
3.45pm – 4.30pm	World Service Delegates Reports & questions
4.30pm – 5.00pm	Report on National T&CF Forum 2016 & questions (Ken H)
5.00pm – 5.30pm	Regional Forums 2016 Reports & questions (Delegates)
5.30pm – 6.00pm	Report on Australasian Convention 2016 – Fiji (Maurice Smith)
6.00pm – 7.30pm	Dinner

Date & Time	Session
Saturday 5th Nov	
7.30am – 8.30am	Breakfast
8.30am – 8.40am	Preview days' events
	Reading of Administrative Procedures (Nik R)
8.40am -10.30am	Trustees Nominating Committee Report (Brett F)
	Conference Committee on Trustees Report and voting on recommendations (Nik R)
	Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Paul M)
	Conference Policies & Admissions Report and voting on recommendations (Andy P)
10.30am–11.00am	Morning Tea
11am – 1.00pm	Trustees' Treatment Facilities Committee Report (Mike E)
	Conference Treatment Facilities Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Andy P)
	Trustees' Correctional Facilities Report (Mick C)
	Conference Correctional Facilities Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Mark S)
	Trustees' International Committee Report (Tony V)
	Conference International Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Georgie J)
	Trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee Report (Maurice Smith)
	Presentation of Financial Report and Acceptance (Maurice Smith)
	Conference Finance Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Greg H)
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm – 3.15pm	Trustees' Literature & Archives Committee Report (Paul B)
	Conference Literature Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Greg H)
	Trustees' PI&CPC Committee Report (Brett F)
	Conference PI&CPC Committee Report and voting on recommendations (John O'L)
	Trustees' Remote Communities Report (Kerry S)
	Conference Remote Communities Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Melinda M)
3.15pm – 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea
3.45pm – 5.00pm	Trustees' General Service Conference Committee Report (Bruce M)
	Conference Agenda Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Nik R)
	Date and theme of Conference 2017
5.00pm – 5.15pm	Ratification of Trustee elections (if any)
5.15pm – 5.30pm	Bids for National T&CF Forum 2018 Bids for National Convention 2020
5.30pm – 5.45pm	Bids for 2017 Regional Forums
6.00pm – 7.30pm	Dinner

Date & Time	Session
Sunday 6th Nov	
7.30am – 8.30am	Breakfast
8.30am – 8.40am	Preview day's events
8.40am – 9.00am	Floor Actions
9.00am – 10.30am	Ask It Basket – Conference inventory questions
10.30am–11.00am	Morning Tea
11.00am– 12.00pm	Ask It Basket – Conference inventory questions
12.00pm – 12.30pm	Chairman's Closing Remarks + Farewells
12.30pm – 1.00pm	Group photographs
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm – 2.30pm	Meeting of General Service Board

DELEGATES' & OBSERVERS' MEETING

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2016

1:30PM – 3.15PM

AGENDA

Welcome Nik R

From Topic to Advisory Action.....

 Committees..... Paul M

 Discussion & Decision..... Ray M

How Conference Votes

 Voting..... Melinda M

 Minority Voice Pat L

 Third Legacy Procedure..... Mark S

How do I have a say?

 Self Introduction All

 Floor Actions Peter O'D

 What's on Your Mind/Ask It Basket/Conference Inventory..... Andy P

Wrap Up Nik Rieth

 Questions & Answers..... All

ROLL CALL
AREA DELEGATES
TO THE AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

	AREA	PANEL NUMBER	YEAR
CENTRAL REGION			
Wally H	A	58	2016
Andy P	B	56	2014
NORTH EASTERN REGION			
Kenneth H	A	58	2016
Paul M	B	56	2014
John O'L	C	57	2015
SOUTHERN REGION			
Melinda M	B	56	2014
Mal Y	C	58	2016
Peter O'D	D	57	2015
Ray M	E	56	2014
Geoff S	F	58	2016
EASTERN REGION			
Georgie J	A	57	2015
Pat L	B	56	2014
Andrew M	C	58	2016
Mark S	D	56	2014
John B	E	58	2016
Greg H	F	56	2014
Nik R	G	57	2015
Joe H	H	58	2016
NORTHERN REGION			
Delegate Area A	A	56	2016
WESTERN REGION			
Christian G	A	58	2016
Dominic H	B	58	2016

**GENERAL SERVICE BOARD
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA**

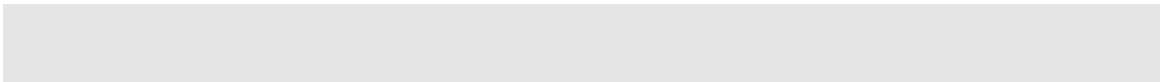
CLASS A TRUSTEES			
Maurice Smith	Chairperson		2013
GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES			
Bruce M	Deputy Chairperson		2014
Mike E			2014
REGIONAL TRUSTEES			
Brett F		North Eastern	2015
Paul B		Eastern	2015
Kerry S		Western	2014
Mick C		Southern	2014

OTHER VOTING MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE

Tony V	World Service Meeting Delegate	2014
David E	World Service Meeting Delegate	2016
Valerie M	General Service Office Manager	1996

NON-VOTING

Vanda Rounsefell	Trustee Emeritus	2010
Tony C	General Service Office	2002
Chris S	General Service Office Office	2011
John O	Caring & Sharing Tape Library	



POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Andy P, Delegate, Area B, Central Region (Chair)
Peter O'D (Delegate, Area D, Southern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Melinda M (Delegate, Area B, Southern Region)
Nik R (Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region)
Wally H (Delegate, Area A, Central Region)
John B (Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region)
Pat L (Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region)
Mick C (Southern Regional Trustee)
Paul B (Eastern Regional Trustee)
David E (World Service Delegate)
Vanda Rounsefell (Trustee Emeritus)
Valerie M (Co-ordinator)

**PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

John O'L (Delegate, Area C, North Eastern Region) (Chair)
Ray M, (Delegate, Area E, Southern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Mark S (Delegate, Area D, Eastern Region)
Andrew M, (Delegate, Area C, Eastern Region)
To be advised (Delegate, Area A, Northern Region)
Dominic H (Delegate, Area B, Western Region)
Mal Y (Delegate, Area C, Southern Region)
Brett F (Chair, Trustees' PI&CPC Committee)
Bill H (Northern Regional Trustee)
Tony V (World Service Delegate)
Tony C (Co-ordinator)

REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

Paul M (Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region) (Chair)
John B (Delegate, Area E, Eastern Region)
Dominic H (Delegate, Area B, Western Region)
Joe H (Alt. Delegate, Area H, Eastern Region)
Paul B (Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee)
Kerry S (Western Regional Trustee)
Vanda Rounsefell (Trustee Emeritus)
Tony C (Co-ordinator)

TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

Andy P (Delegate, Area B, Central Region) (Chair)
Nik R (Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Melinda M (Delegate, Area B, Southern Region)
John O'L (Delegate, Area C, North Eastern Region)
Greg H (Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region)
Geoff S (Alt. Delegate, Area F, Southern Region)
Mike E (Chair, Trustees' Treatment Facilities Committee)
Bill H (Northern Regional Trustee)
Tony C (Co-ordinator)

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Mark S (Delegate, Area D, Eastern Region) (Chair)
Pat L (Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region) (Alt. Chair)
John B (Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region)
Peter O'D (Delegate, Area D, Southern Region)
Ray M (Delegate, Area E, Southern Region)
Mick C (Chair, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee)
Bruce M (General Service Trustee)
Chris S (Co-ordinator)

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Greg H (Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region) (Chair)
Pat L (Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Mark S (Delegate, Area D, Eastern Region)
John O'L (Delegate, Area C, North Eastern Region)
Georgie J (Delegate, Area A, Eastern Region)
Joe H (Alt. Delegate, Area H, Eastern Region)
Mal Y (Delegate, Area C, Southern Region)
Geoff S (Alt. Delegate, Area F, Southern Region)
Paul B (Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee)
Mick C (Southern Regional Trustee)
Tony V (World Service Delegate)
Chris S (Co-ordinator)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Nik R (Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region) (Chair)
Peter O'D (Delegate, Area D, Southern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Kenneth H(Alt. Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region)
Paul M (Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region)
Andy P (Delegate, Area B, Central Region)
Christian G (Delegate, Area A, Western Region)
John B (Delegate, Area E, Eastern Region)
Brett F (Chair, Trustees, Nominating Committee)
Maurice Smith (Class A Trustee)
David E (World Service Delegate)
Vanda Rounsefell (Trustee Emeritus)
Valerie M (Co-ordinator)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greg H (Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region) (Chair)
Georgie J (Delegate, Area A, Eastern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Christian G (Delegate, Area A, Western Region)
Paul M (Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region)
Kenneth H (Alt. Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region)
Joe H (Alt. Delegate, Area H, Eastern Region)
Geoff S (Alt. Delegate, Area F, Southern Region)
Maurice Smith (Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee)
Mike E (General Service Trustee)
Bruce M (General Service Trustee)
Chris S (Co-ordinator)

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Georgie J (Delegate, Area A, Eastern Region) (Chair)
Pat L (Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Wally H (Delegate, Area A, Central Region) (Chair)
Andrew M (Delegate, Area C, Eastern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Christian G (Delegate, Area A, Western Region)
Tony V (Chair, Trustees' International Committee & World Service Delegate)
Brett F (North Eastern Regional Trustee)
Maurice Smith (Class A Trustee)
David E (World Service Delegate)
Valerie M (Co-ordinator)

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Nik R (Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region) (Chair)
Melinda M (Delegate, Area B, Southern Region) (Alt. Chair)
Dominic H (Delegate, Area B, Western Region) (Chair)
Andy P (Delegate, Area B, Central Region) (Alt. Chair)
Kenneth H (Alt. Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region)
To be advised (Delegate, Area A, Northern Region)
Bruce M (Chair, Trustees' General Service Conference Committee)
Valerie M (Co-ordinator)

CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Melinda M (Delegate, Area B, Southern Region) (Acting Chair)
To be advised (Delegate, Area A, Northern Region)
Ray M (Delegate, Area E, Southern Region)
Wally H, (Delegate, Area A, Central Region)
Andrew M (Delegate, Area C, Eastern Region)
Dominic H (Delegate, Area B, Western Region)
Kerry S (Chair, Trustees' Remote Communities Committee)
Mike E (General Service Trustee)
Bill H (Northern Regional Trustee)
Tony C (Co-ordinator)

A MESSAGE FROM BILL W

Bill gave this talk in 1954 in front of a group of A.A.s in Fort Worth, Texas. He spoke at length about A.A. history, and specifically, of the development of the Third Legacy:

(A 4 minute recording of Bill delivering the following message was then played):

... So there was a long discussion, in which I had a sad falling out with a good many of my friends, some of whom had been trustees, and it was quite a bitter and harrowing chapter in our affairs, which none of you know about.

This struggle, to see whether this movement would always be headed by a self-perpetuating hierarchy of oldtimers, or whether these affairs, so vital to the welfare of A.A. all over the world, should be turned over to you.

And finally, after six years of hassling about it, I finally got the consent of the Board of Trustees to come out to you, and tell you this story and to say:

Here is a means, which in an experimental form, we have put in a pamphlet marked 'The Third Legacy.'

Here is a means by which you can get some delegates and state committeemen and send folks up to New York, to take charge and to take over what is now your business.

And so why don't you come up there and look this deal over, and the trustees will agree to make themselves responsible to you instead of to nobody.

And you look it over and see what you think about it, and if at the end of four years you like the way that it's temporarily laid out, then we'll drive a plug in this thing, then we oldtimers up there, including yours truly, will say, "Look folks, these vital services are yours, to have and to hold."

This Conference of delegates shall hereafter be the custodians and the guardians of our Traditions. This is yours. This is the remainder of your Third Legacy. Will you accept it?

So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society.

And I think it's the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over.

So, in 1955 we purpose to hold an International Convention, at which time, on behalf of the oldtimers, and of Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy.

This Conference shall become our successor.

To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you.

WHY DO WE NEED A GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE?

The late Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic, then Chairman of the North American Board of Trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting in New York:

"We may not need a General Service Conference to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to insure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth which brought us back to life.

We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must insure can never invade AA. We need it to insure AA against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect AA against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

We need it to insure that changes within AA come only as a response to the needs and the wants of AA, and not of any few. We need it to insure that the doors of the halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to insure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is".

DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to AA's future

To place our common welfare first;
To keep our fellowship united.
For on AA unity depends our lives
And the lives of those to come.

BOARD RESOLUTIONS FEBRUARY 2016

The Board resolved that archival material should not be removed from the General Service Office by anyone.

The Board resolved that Di T be appointed as Western Regional PI&CPC Co-ordinator, effective immediately, for a four year period.

The Board resolved that Lachlan B be appointed as National Technology and Social Media Advisor.

The Board resolved that Mick C was elected as Chairperson of the Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee for a two year period, effective immediately.

The Board resolved that, in future, February Board meetings be held in Sydney and that Mark Gardiner be invited to give a presentation on directors' responsibilities at the Board Inventory meeting.

The Board resolved that the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure document be changed to reflect Advisory Action #037/2015:
Conference resolved that the Conference Remote Communities should change their Composition, Scope & Procedure Document to reflect that this committee will focus only on carrying the message to people living in geographically remote communities in Australia. .

The Board resolved that tape recordings of future Board meetings be destroyed once the Minutes have been accepted.

The Board resolved that all tapes of past Board meetings be destroyed.

The Board resolved that only Board resolutions be recorded in Minutes of Board Minutes.

BOARD RESOLUTIONS JULY 2016

The Board resolved that archival material should not be removed from the General Service Office by anyone.

The Board resolved that Di T be appointed as Western Regional PI&CPC Co-ordinator, effective immediately, for a four year period.

The Board resolved that Lachlan B be appointed as National Technology and Social Media Advisor.

The Board resolved that Mick C was elected as Chairperson of the Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee for a two year period, effective immediately.

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Conference Theme: A design for living

I'm an enthusiastic reader of the Big Book. A major fan, you could say! So, upon volunteering myself to write a piece on the conference theme, guess where the first place I look is?! And I happen to notice, that on page 28 of the Big book, near the end of the second paragraph it states the following;

“A NEW LIFE HAS BEEN GIVEN US OR, IF YOU PREFER, “A DESIGN FOR LIVING” THAT REALLY WORKS.”

And in case you are wondering, it's in chapter 2 'There is a solution'.

I recall a telephone conversation I had with my sister, when she had begun attending meetings of another 12 step fellowship, and her words ringing in my ears. I had been in a violent abusive relationship for some time, and desperately wanted an out. I would have done ANYTHING to get out of the life I had at the time. And the words she spoke, which I have never forgotten, were the following:

“You're gonna have a whole new life, Mel. Not your old life scrubbed up, but a whole new one!” And of course, I thought *'Wow! Yeah, I want that! I want a new life!'*

One of the things that really struck me in AA, right from my earliest days, was watching members handle countless situations, using the AA program, prayers and fellowship, in times of strife and trouble.

Things like watching a loved one die of some dreadful disease, being lied to, cheated on, betrayed, assaulted The list of horrible life experiences could go on and on and on. And yet, there they were, these older sober members, getting through these things, with what appeared to be barely a stumble let alone a pity-fuelled drunken binge.

I would think to myself *“How do you cope with THAT?”*

And then, two years into my own recovery, the unthinkable happened. A dreadful, heartbreaking, horrible thing happened to ME. And my world turned upside down. Or at least, that's how it felt at the time. I found myself thinking *'This sucks. This is not what I got sober for.'* For the six months that followed the 'event' that changed my world, I experienced the worst depression I have ever had. When I came out the other side of that depression, I realised that what I had was conditional sobriety. I was sober on the *condition* that nothing went dreadfully wrong. How many times had I heard people say “It works if you work it.”? And yet, there I was, secretly thinking I could throw it all in, because life wasn't turning out the way I thought it would. But I also knew what the

consequences would be if I drank again – jails, institutions and death. And the MANY ‘yets’ that were out there for me; a ‘high bottom’ drunk.

And so, slowly but surely I began working the program, utilising the prayers, surrounding myself with fellowship people, and living in the solution, rather than the problem.

Over the last 18 years since then, I can tell you that I have experienced some of the very best, and the very worst that life has to offer. I’ve been lied to, cheated on, betrayed, assaulted, been sacked, lost loved ones (losing my Mum was the hardest), and even more recently, just before conference last year, I was in a high-speed car crash. Some of the best things have been getting great jobs, buying my first home, having a dream wedding, getting a brand new car, seeing great musicians live in concert, going to great parties, and much more!

If I were to focus in on just one aspect of the program that can be utilized in all areas of life, I would have to say it is prayer. This part of the program is where I have felt most strongly that it is a design for living that works in ALL areas, and at ALL times.

Take for example, the following two events; getting married, and getting injured. Getting married can involve inviting those relatives you haven’t seen since goodness knows when, dressing in clothes you’ll probably never wear again, and watching everyone else get sloshed at your expense! But, nonetheless, it’s a wondrous occasion, to be celebrated by all involved. And there is usually booze. Lots of it.

Getting injured – which is not nearly as fun as getting married – can involve having to take medications which may have an adverse effect on the mind, it may or may not involve surgery, recovery time and procedures, even a change of lifestyle and subsequent needs.

But both of these things can be handled, using the program which is designed to be applied in all our affairs. Love and tolerance of the relatives we barely know except when seen at weddings and funerals, and honest open discussion with medical practitioners of whom are there to help treat and heal our various illnesses and injuries.

The principles of this wonderful program; honesty, willingness, open-mindedness and perseverance in all conditions, are the principles designed for living a life beyond anything I could ever have dreamed.

I don’t know about you, but this here ‘whole new life’ my sister had told me about, it really is a design for living.

Living sober, living dignified, living useful and living free.

Yours in Service, Melinda M – Area B Delegate, Southern Region.