

SECTION 2

REPORTS

AREA DELEGATES REPORTS 2016

EASTERN REGION

Area A

Hi everyone, my name is Georgie J and I am an alcoholic. This is my second Conference as I attended last year as Alternate Delegate and am here this year for the first time as our Area's elected Delegate. My home group is the Armidale Recovery Group.

Area A is situated in the North Eastern part of NSW; it runs along the East Coast of NSW from Tweed Heads down to Forster/Tuncurry, then runs back out to Lightning Ridge and the NSW/QLD border is our top boundary.

Area Assemblies are held four times per year, they are: the third weekends in February, May and October, and the first weekend in December. The assembly is rotated around the area and districts or groups can bid to host an assembly. The assemblies are held over the Saturday and Sunday of these weekends, beginning on the Saturday with a light lunch at noon and then from 1pm to 5pm. We usually go out for dinner on the Saturday night and then attend a local meeting. On Sunday we start back at 9am and finish by 12noon. Each assembly has a specific focus, the October assembly is a pre-conference assembly and the December assembly is a post-conference assembly. The topics for conference and the outcomes of them feature in these assemblies. The February assembly alternates each year between an Area A inventory assembly and a workshop assembly. At the May assembly we finalise our own Area A topics for conference, which have usually grown out of the report back from conference from the delegate.

We have a total of nine districts and at our May assembly our Area Registrar reported that we have 146 meetings held by various groups. Five of our districts are active, sending their DCMs to the assembly. Some of our groups also send their GSRs.

Our Area positions are delegate, alternative delegate, chair, treasurer, secretary and registrar. There are also three sub-committees; the Area Archives Committee, PI&CPC Committee and the T&CF Committee. At the moment the positions of Alternative Delegate and PI Coordinator are vacant. The Area Committee rotates its positions every second year in December, with the exception of the delegate and alternative delegate positions which rotate every third year.

Within Area A we have a number of rallies, some of which have run for many years. This year we have had the Uralla Bushrangers Rally, the Port Macquarie Rally, the Lightning Ridge Rally, the Rally of the Heart in Lismore, Founder's Day Rally in Grafton, the Banana Coast Rally in Coffs Harbour and Forster will host a rally in October. Murwillumbah will also host a rally later in the year.

Though out Area A we have a number of people contributing their service to various correctional facilities and treatment centres. Our members carry the message within these facilities across the Area, and our T&CF coordinator is doing a wonderful job with

this process. Our Area Archivist has sorted our previous rather messy archives and is in the process of recording some of our records electronically.

This year we have had our challenges. Our website has crashed and our email addresses are not working. For the moment, our secretary is able to be contacted on secretarynswarea@gmail.com and myself at gjeston@myune.edu.au.

Of greater concern to our Area this year has been a perceived lack of transparency and openness in several communication matters between the fellowship and the GSB. Unfortunately, as Conference currently has no mechanism to voice these concerns, I have no other avenue to express this but in this report. At last year's Conference I asked questions from the floor that were taken on notice regarding finances. I have had to chase up answers and wait months for them, while some remain unanswered. This, along with the perceived lack of transparency regarding other matters including the meet the GSB meetings across Australia, a lack of response to the letter sent by 23 past delegates and trustees to the GSB, to name but a few concerns, has lead some of our groups and districts feeling that they have no choice but to exercise their "power of the purse" and withhold funds from being sent to the GSB.

I am aware that well over \$10,000 is sitting in one account alone. This action has not been taken to "punish" the GSB, but simply as Concept VII and Warranty I describe, as a way for all of us to stop and consider each other's concerns, and to take inventory as to whether there is an imbalance with communication happening. Our members are not for any moment suggesting any wrong doing is occurring, but to consider that there must be openness and transparency in the communication between the GSB and the fellowship. We are equals.

These points alone make clear the urgent need we have to review our structure. We do not believe this is anything but problems with process, it is not about individuals. I am hoping that before this conference we can include each other in our prayers, be responsive and proactive not reactive, and try our best to follow the spirit of our traditions, steps, concepts and warranties. Our Second Tradition states, "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he MAY express Himself in our group conscience. If we can be guided by these spiritual tools laid out at our feet, there is a greater chance God MAY express Himself in our group conscience, the Conference.

Yours in Service,
Georgie J

Area B

Hello friends my name is Pat L, I am privileged to be the Area B Eastern Region Delegate attending my third National Conference and second as the elected Delegate. My home Group is Canberra Recovery Group Big Book Study.

Area B Eastern Region covers the South East of NSW including the ACT. An online map giving more detailed information can be found at the Canberra CSO website at <http://www.aacanberra.org/#!areabmap/capu>

Most of our members and Groups are located in Canberra and it's immediate surrounds however, there are many meetings and Groups outside of Canberra spread right across the rest of Area B too. There are over 40 meetings per week in Canberra and over 40 meetings per week throughout the rest of Area B. The exact number of groups is as yet undetermined but the number is well below the meetings' numbers.

Area B began the last twelve months with trepidation as the previous twelve months were less than encouraging by far. At the end of January 2016 when we held our Election Assembly, the Area Assembly was going to vote on going into recess. Over the previous twelve months Committee meetings were attended by 3 Committee members and the May Assembly saw the same result with only one representative from a group (Whom wasn't even an elected GSR). We held an Area Inventory in March, we advertised at meetings, we approached the Canberra CSO for assistance and were supported and helped enormously, we did everything we could to improve support in our Area Newsletter the B-Line and we announced at meetings all over Canberra and Goulburn (And anywhere else in our Area members visited). Service was so poorly supported that the annual Founders Day meetings was not held in 2015 and neither was our November Working With Others Day. But in our Topics for Conference Assembly in October 2015 where we were to explain to GSRs the exact plight of Area, we had an encouraging turn out of both Committee members and GSRs. We had a lot of Committee positions to fill and we needed GSRs to attend our Assemblies. In January at our Election Assembly that completely turned around. We have a full Committee with positions filled that have not been filled for over 2 years. Consequently our Conference Topics Assembly in May in which our Regional Trustee attended had a good turnout of GSRs from Canberra, Goulburn and from as far away as Bowral too.

We now have a completely different Area vibe and each Committee meeting is well attended. This year a Founders Day organising Committee got up and running and held a very successful and much appreciated day of fellowship and recovery with Al-Anon and Alateen participation. Planning for another Working With Others Day to be held in November is also well under way. Other successful AA events this year include the Wombeyan Caves Wilderness Weekend, The AA Women's Weekend in Gerringong (Which owed a lot of its success to the advertising of the event done throughout Area D), ACTYPAA (Run by an independent organising committee primarily made up from the Young People's Group) was held in Tuggeranong in November 2015 and the AA in Autumn Southern Highlands Weekend in May.

The Area B-Line has not skipped a beat in the last 18 months. It is steadily growing in popularity and the mailing list, encouragingly so, continues to grow.

Our Correctional Facilities Committee (A sub-committee of Area) is now holding 2 meetings per week in the AMC (Canberra Gaol) and 1 per week "Outside the Wire". There aren't any meetings occurring in the Goulburn Gaol at present but this situation is hopefully looking to improve over the next year. There is still one meeting per week being held in the Cooma Gaol.

As far as Treatment Facilities go there is a Detox Meeting Co-ordinator at the Canberra CSO that co-ordinates a roster of Canberra Groups to attend a weekly Detox meeting at the Canberra Hospital. The Young People's Group visits the Karalaika Rehab for information sessions. A lot of Treatment facilities (If not most) send a group of their clients to various Canberra meetings including Canberra Speakers and the Beginners Meeting. However, the Treatment Facilities Co-ordinator position at Area is vacant and we are advertising this as per our usual methods.

In early April our annual PI/CPC talks were given to 82 2nd Year medical Students from the ANU College of Medicine. Attendance by the students was compulsory and they are required to attend 2 AA meetings in the course of the year. 2 younger members (M&F) and 2 Older members (M&F) shared and there was 20 minutes question time. The usual literature was handed out to the students. The students are required to write an essay on both their AA experience at meetings and the presentation by the speakers. This is going to be a continuing PI/CPC event.

There is a CSO in Canberra that has an office in the suburb of Holder with volunteers in attendance each weekday and mainly serves the ACT and its immediate surrounds. There is also a CSO in the Southern Highlands that is a virtual office and is a great AA presence in the Southern Highlands. It is hoped technology (Skype probably) will enable the GSRs these Southern highlands members belong to, to be able to attend our assemblies without the need to drive so far. They attended our May Assembly and were greatly appreciated for their efforts to attend as are any others that also come from afar. There is more I could go on about here but I think it is best to say that we in Area B (As far as General Service goes) at present are well placed for the future, at least the immediate future.

Yours In Service
Pat L
Area B Delegate

Area C

Hi All,

My Name is Andrew M , I am an alcoholic and have the enormous privilege to have been Voted in to be the Area C E.R Delegate for 2016-2019 . I would like to say it was a closely fought Ballot but that would not be correct as I was the only nomination.

Our Area covers from the Hawksbury river in Sydney's north to basically Seal Rocks just south of Forster on the Mid North Coast and out as far as Singleton-however the three groups to the north of Singleton being Muswellbrook Tuesday night , Muswellbrook Thursday night and the Scone Friday night Voted to do service with-in Area C due to the "Tyranny of distance" to do Service with-in Area A E.R where they are supposed to be .

Basically our Area is split into 3 Districts being;

1. Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie and lower Hunter,
2. Newcastle Central and
3. the Central Coast ,

However the Central Coast acts on their own and wish not to be included in Area C business The remaining two Districts cover a total of Approximately 40 groups with the Central Coast at about 54 Groups.

We have recently suggested to our Area Assembly that we should consider asking our groups to consider how we might best get more people involved with-in the Area with a suggestion to create more Districts of about 8-10 groups rather than 1 at 34 groups , this is still a work in progress and to quote a past Delegate from another Area we will "Hasten Slowly".

We do experience a lack of enthusiasm of members getting involved in service work outside their own groups and I am hoping that this is not just with-in the Newcastle/Hunter region , although we do have a small but extremely committed group who turn up and "put up" when service , P.I or work with-in our institutions is concerned and placing books and information into libraries,Solicitors and Doctors , but unlike Robin Hood and his band of merry men, we have some amazing and competent Ladies who are doing a great job -some of this is a "Carry over" from the Host planning committee of the Convention Held in Newcastle in 2015.

We attend several Hospital Mental Health units although A.A has been banned from others because of the Negative Sharing from some members, we ,when possible, attend meetings at Cessnock Goal and when possible attend function like an up coming "White Ribbon" breakfast and recently a Doctors retraining day, a Homeless persons day, the Total field day and soon a Practice Manager night sent to us by Leigh F.

As mentioned our Area also takes in the Local government Areas of Gosford and Wyong which is simply referred to as the "Central Coast" and some years ago they applied to become a stand alone Area which was passed over at Conference and they do their own thing and do it well , however there are still some groups who wish to remain with-in Area C E.R and we are attempting to do what we can to accommodate them by holding Assemblies in those places.

Our Area has 1 C.S.O located at Gosford and I believe we have a helpline at Gosford and another covering Newcastle and the Hunter.

We, also, have had questions asked about the "Fiji Convention" although we had about 9 from our Area attend , the success has not been questioned , but it is sometimes hard to go "hat in hand" to ask for financial support for Area when they ask was "Fiji a necessary expenditure " others asked if it is better for us to spend the money reaching out to others in our community such as our remote Indigenous members.

I am pleased to say I have a wealth of Experience to draw on from previous Delegates and others from the Area with many years of service work between them to add to my meagre 14 years sobriety, and will do my best for this Area, it's members and the fellowship and feel sure that Conference experience from others will be forthcoming if needed, however should I get a little off track there is a spot on the back of my head my partner uses to give me a tune up to get back on track-feel free to verbally use it if needed.

Looking forward to Conference and catching up with some old and making some new Friends.

Yours in service
Andrew M
Area C E.R Delegate

Area D

Hi Friends,

My name is Mark S and I'm an alcoholic and my Home Group is the "There is a Solution Recovery Group" which meets in Nowra NSW. Our Group convenes three meetings a week, a BB Study Meeting, a Steps and Traditions Meeting and a Tradition 5 Meeting which has a rotating format. I always like to mention my Home Group in any report to the General Service Conference as this is where my journey in Service began many years ago with picking up a tea towel, being a greeter and making a commitment to my Group. It also introduced me to Service beyond the Group and our connection to the wider Fellowship. This all gave me a sense of belonging and security that I had never known before.

Eastern Region Area D is a geographic area which stretches from Camden in Sydney's west, as far north as Horsely Park and Smithfield, through suburbs that include Croydon, Ashfield and Summer Hill and east to Kurnell and Bundeena and then south through the Illawarra and as far south as Berrara in the Shoalhaven. There are approximately 110 meetings held in Area D each week. Area D convenes four Area Assemblies each year and they are rotated between Sutherland, Bulli and Nowra. Both Sharing Sessions and Workshops are included in Assemblies where possible. At our last two Assemblies the Macarthur District has been represented by their District Committee Member. This is the first time a DCM has been present at an Area D Assembly since the Shoalhaven District was active in 2010. GSR attendance has also been steadily increasing with eight GSRs present at our last Assembly in Bulli. Also a big thanks to all Groups and the Macarthur District who have contributed financially to the Area. This allows us to stay active in our

Service efforts within the Area and continue to send our Delegate to the General Service Conference.

Between Area Assemblies much of our communication happens through Wiggio which is a free web application that makes it easy to work in groups. GSR's and other members can be invited into the group and therefore stay informed of current AA service opportunities, upcoming events and matters affecting AA as a whole. Flyers, reports and both Area agendas and minutes are posted. There are currently 100 Members on Wiggio.

This is my last Pre General Service Conference Report and I would like to thank all members who have served on the Area D Committee during my time as the serving Area D Delegate. Currently all service positions are filled including recently elected Coordinators in both Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community and Treatment and Correctional Facilities.

On September 24 2016 Area D will be hosting the **Eastern Regional Forum** in Caringbah. The theme is "For Fun and For Free" and we are hopeful of a productive and enriching experience. The Area held two fundraising BBQs at the Wollongong Botanic Gardens which helped raise funds for the Forum and allowed for Fellowship in a wonderful setting.

Founders Day Nowra

Founders Day celebrations were held in Nowra on Saturday 11 June. The program included a viewing of the movie "When Love is not Enough" which is the story of Lois Wilson and three Speaker Meetings. The day was very enjoyable and the soup and buns for lunch were a treat.

Caringbah Traditions Workshop

A Traditions Workshop was held in Caringbah on Sunday July 3. The day started with a BBQ, then followed by a short history talk related to the Traditions. This was followed by the Fellowship breaking up into six Groups to workshop two Traditions each. Each group then reported back to the large Group. Two experienced Al-Anon Members then shared their experience with the Traditions, followed by a closing AA speaker to wrap the day up.

Thank you to all who are active in Service and continue to be passionate about our history and Traditions. It reminds us to place principles before personalities and focus on our primary purpose.

PI and CPC Work

Shoalhaven Sub-Acute Mental Health Service – Forum

This service operates as part of the Shoalhaven Hospital and the Forum is an ongoing opportunity to network with other service providers in the Shoalhaven and Illawarra. The "HOT SEAT" sharing session which is held each month provides us with an opportunity to send a member or members along and tell their story to the patients and pass on literature, meetings lists and contact numbers to any patients who may have a drinking problem. This is happening on an ongoing basis once a month.

Macarthur District

The Macarthur District have been busy with various forms of PI and CPC work including visiting local Doctor's Surgeries, Court Houses and other Services. Through our National PI and CPC Coordinator contact was made with the Primary Health Networks (PHN) at Campbelltown which have been established with the key objectives of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time. A worker was invited to attend the upcoming Eastern Regional Forum and \$100.00 of literature was left.

The District was invited to set up a table at an event at The Bargo Sports Club, Community Links at Tahmoor were the hosts which featured Psych's on Bikes, it was for Men's Health Week. It's a large group of men made up of Doctors, Registered Nurses & others still studying medicine. The head Psychiatrist Dr Dunn gave a talk on men's health covering suicide, loneliness & Alcoholism. We were able to share with the other services that attended answering many questions and also gave away quite a few of our pamphlets. We talked to several people asking us about Alcoholism & handing out meeting lists. We also met another new service run by Uniting and it is called ME and they were very interested in AA & took some info as well.

Thanks to all committed to our Third Legacy and look forward to seeing you at the GSC.

In Gods Service Mark S
Eastern Region Area D Delegate
Panel 56

Area E

This Area spans all of Northern Sydney and the Northern Beaches areas in Sydney. There are over 100 registered meetings throughout the area, with some groups having multiple meetings.

The AA service contributions during the year of all office holders are greatly appreciated. Rotation of the positions of Area Chairman, Secretary, Delegate, Alternate Delegate and PI & CPC Co-ordination occurred this year. For the new office holders, it is an opportunity to continue their learning and growth in AA service.

A response was provided to the Structure Review Committee survey. This exercise highlighted shortcomings in the knowledge of the area's AA service structure. After receiving a report on this year's Conference, the committee will give consideration to the conduct of an inventory of Area E.

Area E, the NSCSO and its members supported the Fiji Convention's function to serve the primary purpose of carrying the AA message to all who need it and want it. This support included members' attendance at the convention, the NSCSO providing literature for the convention and financial contributions by groups and Area E.

Area E is very well serviced by the Northern Sydney Central Service Office (NSCSO), its committee and volunteers. The NSCSO is open five days a week, sells literature, produces a monthly newsletter, maintains rosters for telephone support outside of office hours and for the AA 1800 number, supports visitations to seven H&I, participation in programs for BTG at three hospitals and Court Service. In addition, it has supported Area PI & CPC and other AA activities.

Alternate Delegate' Report

Introduction

Number of GSRs in area E is less than 15% of the number of AA groups. It translates into a very low interest in service outside of one's home group, hence marginal contribution to a general service structure and indifference to the wellbeing of AA as a whole.

The above situation has been discussed over many years at the Area E monthly committee meetings.

In February 2016, it was agreed to try to refresh our local AA members in relation to the vitality of service in personal recovery; hence in strengthening efficiency and effectiveness of our Fellowship in carrying the message of recovery from alcoholism to those who still suffer.

It was agreed that we would focus on The 12 Concepts for World Service written by Bill W., published in 1962, and organise interactive presentations at our quarterly assemblies.

Results

PowerPoint presentations designed to familiarise members with the spiritual content of the 12 Concepts of service and to stimulate discussion among them, has been introduced at two consecutive quarterly assemblies.

The preparation of the presentation has been a co-operative project executed by Anna S. Area E Alternate Delegate and John B. Area E Delegate,

The presentations at the assemblies was undertaken by Christopher H, GSR from the Road to Recovery Group that meets at Kirribilli on a Friday at 7.30pm, with help from the Area E committee and GSRs and the co-operation of groups

So far, two sessions have been completed. The attendance was very low, which equals less than 5% of our AA population. However, the participation of those who attended was adequate. We have tried to present material at two different locations, to eliminate accessibility as the reason for low numbers. The time and location does not seem to affect attendance.

The next Assembly on August 28 was held at the North Curl Curl Community centre but was slightly less well attended than the previous one with around 15 attendees. At this Assembly the presentation included the introduction to the Concepts, consideration of a key question in relation to Concept I and discussion of Concepts II-IV. It was expertly presented by Chris H of the Road to Recovery group. Anna's wonderful and well thought out presentation evoked lively discussion and deep thought around all of the Concepts. My most marked take home message of the day was that Gratitude can best be expressed as the action of participating in service in AA, especially at Area level.

The final Assembly for the year is set to be held at the Doherty Community Centre in Chatswood on October 15 with the agenda including discussion of Topics for conference and a chance to meet and chat with the Eastern Region Trustee.

I have really been enjoying my time as Chairman of the Area E committee and although new at the role feel confident that over time and with the combined experience of the committee we will be able to create extra enthusiasm for Area work and entice more GSR's of Area E to attend our monthly meetings and special events.

Yours in Service,

Andrew I
Area E Chairman

PI and CPC Report.

I'm very new in this position.

Via a lead from John B I arranged for Karyn from Hornsby to speak at a Breakfast meeting for the Chatswood Rotary group. Karyn impressed the Rotary Group with her story of addiction as a young girl and woman, and her battle to gain sobriety. It is hoped that this may lead to further such speaking engagements. via Rotary and leads into schools.

Area E expressed an interest in advertisements in Movie theatres. Val Morgan has provided a list of movies for the coming 12 months, and theatres in which they would be shown. GSO has provided links to suitable AA ads. I provided a synopsis of movies I thought may be suitable. A decision will be made later this year on whether to participate, and how.

I have been in contact with Secondary school authorities in an attempt to arrange some speakers in secondary schools in the Area.

In Service,
John G.

Group Liaison Report

My report so far as the Area E group liaison officer. I have been visiting meetings/groups throughout Area E and have left Flyer's/pamphlets with the secretary and briefly explained my role and also had some assistance with other members of Area E in distribution of the pamphlet. At some stage we thought that a new pamphlet would be more suitable but that is in the pipe line and maybe introduced next year?

Through the role there has been 3 new GSRs attend Area E and as my role is nearing the end I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Yours in Service
Michael S.

Webmaster's Report

After the Area E AGM in February, it was deemed necessary that the position of webmaster be created to improve Area E communication through a website service portal and the use of email distribution lists.

I volunteered and was elected to the position. My first job was to create a website where all the members could go at any time to get information regarding Area E. The website address is <http://areaeeraa.info>. We list minutes, news items and service related material on the website and the response from the members has been very positive. You can also sign up to our email distribution list from the website. We use the MailChimp online email distribution list facility to create and manage our emails. Members can subscribe and unsubscribe any time they want and we currently have over 100 emails addresses in the list. All our notifications get emailed out on a regular basis. I am in the process of training our secretary in the use of the Website and Email system so that the committee can communicate with the groups more easily. Through consultation with the committee and members we are refining the process and features of the website as we seek to constantly improve our ability to communicate with the membership.

In Service, Unity and Fellowship,
Lachlan B.

In Service,
John B
E Eastern Region Delegate

Area

Area F

Hello everyone,
The tyranny of distance and the cost of communications continue to be a burden in this Area.

Despite that Wagga Wagga and Dubbo continue to do good things. Mudgee has restructured its meetings. And the Riverina Intergroup continues.

Wagga Wagga remains the only District in Area F. They are well organised and work hard to keep their locale informed and up to date. Well done.

Dubbo is growing with a new meeting for women on a Monday night. A great step forward. In addition, with the growth of dual addiction attendees at meetings the opening of 2 NA meetings in Dubbo is a great thing.

The Intergroup is well supported by its' membership. At the monthly meetings you can be sure of a warm welcome and some tasty treats. A big thank you to the organisers and doers in Intergroup

The Area F Committee now has a Treasurer, a big thank you to Ali in Wagga. The Committee has a candidate, Stephen from Peak Hill, to take on the Delegate role come March 2017.

At the time of writing this report there is \$990 in the bank. Unclaimed funds worth \$1760 are in the process of being recovered from an old and unused Area F account.

Keep it simple.
Yours in service,
Greg H

Area G

Sydney Inner West, CBD and Eastern Suburbs

Noteworthy

1. Members continued to carry the message in Sydney goals with local members serving both in and outside their area. Local meeting now has supervised 'close release' attendees.
2. Area G website www.areagaa.org website hit the 100 subscribers mark.
3. Continued to hold meetings in up to 12 local rehab and treatment facilities.
4. Literature packs continue to be delivered to treatment facilities throughout Area G (See below) Sydney City CSO now funds this on a bi-annual basis.
5. Members continue to participate on the roster for the telephone diverter, operated through the Sydney City CSO. CSO and Area G working in unity for our primary purpose.
6. Continued to support the General Service structure and the Unity of AA by making regular cost equalisation contributions to support Delegates from all over Australia to attend Conference.

AA Meetings

Area G is located in the heart of Sydney and covers the Inner City, Eastern Suburbs and the Inner West.

We have over 130 meetings per week including

- ID and Recovery focussed meetings
- Breakfast meetings and lunchtime meetings
- Gay, lesbian and transgender AA meetings
- Meetings held in treatment facilities
- Women's meetings
- Men's meetings
- A Koori meeting
- Meditation meetings
- A meeting for lawyers
- A young people's meeting
- A walking meeting.
- Remote/on-line meetings also being conducted.

Highlights

Delivery of AA Literature into facilities - ongoing

Area G in collaboration with the Central Sydney CSO has prioritised delivering literature to treatment facilities in our area. In 2016, 24 rehabs and detoxes will have received \$5,000 worth of literature (about \$80 each presented in a unique AA symbol calico bag) Facilities that do not have a 12 Step focus have also accepted literature.

10 of the facilities have regular AA meetings involving support from Area G groups. 4 have compulsory attendance in 12 Step programs for clients. Up to 6 others have compulsory meeting attendance for clientele and recommend further step-based treatment.

Illustrated Step workshops in selected treatment facilities

Coordinated with a visit to the Area D hosted Eastern Regional Forum, Chris and Dave took the Illustrated Steps workshop to 3 treatment facilities in September of this year. Area also allocated monies for a small intro literature pack to each person attending the workshop in the facility.

It was successfully held in a Facility late 2015 and was coordinated and held in an inner west group meeting for members as well.

PI Committee

Continue summer advertising proposals including Taxi, Mardi Gras and participation at medical and associated health expositions.

Corrections committee

Continued roster of members to Area G goal with a view to increasing literature donations and meetings. Area G members also participating in goal meetings outside the area.

On the horizon:

Boomerang round up – The Sydney Woodstock

To be held from March 10-12, 2017 at Sydney Masonic Centre. A 3-day event organised by 8 groups within Areas G, A, D and E. Featuring visiting and well-known speakers, meetings and fellowship in the manner of Stateline. Promises to be a highlight of the Australian AA calendar.

In service,
Nik R
Area G Delegate

Area H

Hi friends, my name is Joe and I'm an alcoholic. My home group is the Sunlight of the Spirit group in Penrith. This will be my first time attending Conference and from all the reports I have heard I am looking forward to the experience. I feel honoured to have the opportunity to make a contribution for the members of Area H.

Overview of Area H

Area H runs from Burwood/Strathfield, across western Sydney, up to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. Lalor Park and North Richmond form its northern edge and Fairfield its southern side. The Area includes a very large population, concentrated in greater western Sydney.

The Blue Mountains and Western Sydney CSO (BMWSCSO) operates from Kingswood, in the heart of Area H. Its open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm. The CSO has a jail roster, and supplies literature to the groups in Area H, and beyond.

Area H contains quite a few treatment facilities which have meetings and other contact with AA, such as St John of God, North Richmond, Hadleigh Lodge Leura, Detox Unit Nepean Hospital, Northside West Clinic Wentworthville, and Corella Lodge, Fairfield.

Correctional Facilities in Area H include, Parklea GEO, Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre, Metropolitan Remand & Reception Centre Silverwater, John Morony, Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre, Dillwynia, Emu Plains, & Bolwarra.

Area H service status

The positions of secretary, chairperson, Area Registrar, CSO Liaison, Treasurer, Alternate Delegate and Website Coordinator are filled. Delegate, PI & CPC Coord, Treatment Facilities & Correctional Facilities Coordinator roles are currently vacant with efforts underway to fill them, especially the Delegate role. I will attend the 2016 Conference as our Alternate Delegate.

Area H holds its assemblies quarterly with other special meetings called as required (e.g. topics for conference). Over the past 12 months there have been between ten and fifteen in attendance. There is a positive energy to the meetings. Participants are enthusiastic and keen to serve AA, and we are fortunate to have a number of people who have long term experience serving the Area. We do feel disappointed that only a relatively small number of the 90 meetings in the Area represented. We are actively working to improve that (see below).

A former delegate recently put together an engaging presentation aimed at educating those attending assemblies about AA service structures. It's envisaged that it will be presented regularly, as needed.

The Area's finances are in good shape, with several key initiatives recently undertaken that have and will require appropriate funding (see below).

What we've done over the past 12 months

Reaching out to AA

Using excess funds, in 2015 the Area decided to initiate a project that would see a new Australian Big Book given to each of the 90 meetings in Area H. Members from a selection of groups are currently delivering the books, as well as giving the meeting a brief overview of Area H (and the BMWSCSO), and collecting group/meeting contact details for the Area contact database. It is hoped that this initiative, along with follow up activities, will lead to greater understanding, participation and support for Area H (and the BMWSCSO).

New website for western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

In 2015 we also agreed to build a new website targeted at the sick and suffering alcoholic in western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. It will also include a Members Area that will support information sharing and communication within the fellowship and the CSO and Area service bodies.

The website is a joint initiative between Area H and the BMWSCSO. The long term goal of the project is for the new site to become the go to portal for all things AA in the region, for both newcomers reaching out for help, and members who need information related to the fellowship, recovery or service. The website is currently under development and should be up and running in late 2016/early 2017.

Rallies

Traditionally, the Area puts on one day get together in summer each year. The day includes a guest speaker, 2-3 meetings and lunch. It is hosted by the Area committee and is aimed at providing a fellowship day, whilst connecting with members who may not be involved with Area H in other ways.

The Riverstone group hosted a Founders Day celebration in June, that included a full day of meetings and fellowship.

Other events were held in the area, including talks and workshops by overseas speakers.

Unfortunately, the long standing Blue Mountains Rally, usually held in November, lacked sufficient support to take place this year.

Regards,

Joe.

Alternate Delegate Area H.

SOUTHERN REGION

Area B

Hi Everyone, welcome to Conference 2016. This last, most recent quarter (May to August) has been extremely busy for me, with not only getting ready to present the topics at the Area Assembly, but also attending to getting the minutes typed up and sent out where possible, in the absence of an Area Secretary. However, now we have a new Secretary for our Area, which I must say is a big relief. Although even still, our Area is very much on the 'quiet' side. Not many GSR's attending, and people certainly not keen to do service.

Speaking of which, the longer I'm in AA, the more strongly I learn and see the importance of service, and just how much a group can suffer if no one is stepping up to fulfil the service roles within a group. It also makes me want to be MUCH more familiar with the 12 Concepts than what I am. Tradition 7, I know, talks about the importance of being financially self-supporting, but what about the importance of supporting the service roles within the group? A group may have plenty of money going into the basket but if no-one steps up to open the doors and look after the expenses, and keep in touch with what is happening in the rest of the AA world, what then? Well, usually what happens is that a meeting closes. And in the Albury Wodonga region right now, there is more than one group that is hanging on by the skin of their teeth. And it's because the service roles are not being fulfilled. Two of the meetings that have closed in recent years were NOT because of a lack of attendance, or because of money issues, but because no-one stepped up to fulfil the role of service.

There is an old saying (I think from the American Indians) which goes like this: "Only when the last fish has been caught, when the last tree has been cut down, only after the last river has been poisoned, will we realise that money cannot be eaten." Perhaps if we in AA were to say "Only after the last meeting has closed, will we realise, that money alone is not enough to save a dying alcoholic."

Self-supporting, and supporting the newcomer, is about so much more than just putting money in the basket.

I will also say too, that I now finally feel like I really have a grip on this here Delegate position now that I'm about to rotate off! I've gotten my head around some big stuff, and have learnt heaps. And while it's been a real blast, a most educational journey and a great fun time, I am also glad that it is my final term.

I promised myself, at the beginning of this Delegate role, that I would get to every group or town within Area B, and am pleased to say that I have only one more group/town to visit, which is Swan Hill. And I have 2 and a bit months to get there. Swan Hill is quite a long drive for me though so I'm going to arrange a couple of days annual leave to do it. Hopefully, by the time Conference comes around, I will be able to say I've been to Swan Hill.

Anyway, all the best to everyone for a great Conference.

Yours in love and Service,

Melinda M – Delegate for Area B, Southern Region.

Area C

No report

Area D

Area D Southern Region encompasses Groups in the Northern, Western and North Western areas of the Greater Melbourne Metropolitan Area, as well as those in regional centres of Geelong and Ballarat. The number of Groups totals 114, with 142 Weekly Meetings. A total of 43 Groups have a GSR registered with the Area.

The Area is divided into five Districts: Western Suburbs (inner West), Calder (Nth & Nth West); Wyndham (Werribee, Hoppers Crossing, Point Cook); Geelong and Ballarat. All Districts are functioning and active to varying degrees, with Western Suburbs, Calder and Geelong currently seeking to appoint new DCMs.

PI and CPC activities are being undertaken by all five Districts. Literature and 1300 cards are being distributed to locations such as Magistrates Courts, Medical Practices, Community Organisations and Shopping Centres.

Helpline and 12th Step activity is being undertaken via the 1300 AA AA AA Helpline and its linkages to The North-West Intergroup phone service (covering Western Suburbs, Calder and Wyndham) and local Helplines in both Ballarat and Geelong. Rosters also operate in some of the Districts to enable regular meetings to be held in Treatment Facilities within the District.

Public Information Days and Opportunities are held by some Districts. These provide opportunities for both the General Public and The Professional Community to gain an understanding of what AA offers and how they may tap into this within their own spheres of need. During the past year such events have been held by Geelong, Wyndham, Calder and Ballarat Districts.

On an Area wide perspective, the PI & CPC Sub-Committee, facilitated by the Area Co-ordinator, has continued to be very active and, with the enthusiastic support of member volunteers, has ensured an AA presence at a range of National Conferences and Expos: namely, the Rural Doctors Symposium, the Australian Practice Nurses Association Convention, Generation Next Expo, the Australian Convention of Practice Managers, the Geelong Show, and the General Practitioners Convention and Expo. Attendance at these events has created excellent contacts within the Professional Community, resulting in repeat invitations to participate from year to year, and allowed follow-up contact at the local level across the country. This vital work does not happen without significant monetary costs and the PI Sub-Committee has been amazingly successful in fund-raising, raising several thousand dollars and receiving significant donations from individual Groups.

Presentations have also been made to a number of individual organisations and community groups either via the PI Sub-Committee or via individual Districts.

For several years the Area has conducted an annual Women's Day in AA and the 2016 event held in July was again very successful, providing a specific forum for member to member support, great sharing of Experience, Strength and Hope, and great Fellowship. Likewise, the Annual Spiritual Concept Weekend was again held in 2016 in Daylesford across the Anzac Day Weekend. Another excellent opportunity for great sharing of Experience, Strength and Hope and Fellowship.

The Area continues to maintain valuable links to the two autonomous Intergroups, which, though they do not have direct reporting responsibilities to the Area, provide invaluable means of Carrying the Message. They are the Victorian Prisons Intergroup which brings together those members who are actively involved in taking the AA Message into Victorian Correctional Facilities and the North West Intergroup – see reference above.

Both of these provide valuable update reports to the Area Assemblies in relation to their ongoing activities and are keenly supported by individual Groups within the Area.

The Area is very much alive and active and is currently in a sound financial position. Whilst we have a full complement of Office Holders and an enthusiastic and active Area Committee, a key challenge as we move forward is to firstly encourage, and then bring about, a significant increase in the number of Groups who actively participate in the Area and the General Service Structure of the Fellowship. As we all know, membership of AA has three elements: Recovery, Unity and Service. Whilst meeting this challenge to the best of our ability will certainly not be easy, the failure to do so can only result in a less vital, active and inspiring Fellowship. At our December Election Assembly, a number of positions are due for rotation – Chairperson, Secretary, PI & CPC Co-ordinator, Registrar and Newsletter Editor. We are currently seeking expressions of interest from members willing to nominate for these positions.

The Area Assembly has commenced a process whereby members will be encouraged to come together to reflect on the role and organisation of our Districts and has titled it *Raising Awareness of AA in Our Local Communities*. As part of this process we will give consideration to the current geographical boundaries of our existing Districts and whether or not we ought consider some re-alignment of these to create more workable and localised clusters of Groups that may better facilitate more active involvement of Groups within the respective Local Communities

Reflecting on the statistical information contained in the opening paragraph of this Report, it can be seen that 37.7% of our Groups have registered with the Area. I guess one can look at this figure from either the “glass half full” or “glass half empty” perspective. Yes it is encouraging to have this number of Groups registered and, by and large, actively involved at Area Level via the regular quarterly Assemblies which alternate between metropolitan and regional venues. But it does mean 62.3% of Groups are not registered and, by and large, not actively involved with Area. This clearly suggests that, whilst we have a great foundation upon which to build, there remains a significant challenge.

The members in Area D continue to be very supportive and encouraging to me in the role of Area Delegate. I am indeed privileged to be entrusted with this trusted servant role.

Yours in fellowship,

Peter

Peter O'D

Area D Southern Region Delegate

Area E

Hi Members

Well another November conference almost upon us and that means I guess put the thinking cap on for some pretty important decisions to be dealt with.

I am pleased to report information from most Tasmanian groups indicate attendances are reasonably healthy.

Unfortunately we seem to be experiencing a slight quiet time as far as rallies and camps etc. but I guess this situation comes along from time to time in this fellowship. Earlier this year the Hobart Big Book meeting had a weekend workshop and that was well attended .

The East Coast Rally as always is popular and that is normally held in March so I expect dates will announced .

Our area meetings and assemblies experience reasonably healthy attendances , at our last meet in Hobart it was great to have Trustee Mick C come across and to be part of the discussions .

Dennis D our area chairman had to resign for personal reasons and he was a great chairman and very much missed.

We are looking to fill this position but we seem to be having a struggle at the time of writing .

Georgie [Secretary] and Julie [Treasurer] are great service people for the Area and AA.

Cherie started a new group at Rosebery on the west coast but I am told she had to return to the mainland and the meeting closed.

I am rotating off this position this year and someone new will fill the position and the rotation system I believe is really great as we know any member in the fellowship can fill any service position.

Well that is about it from me so I look forward to being at conference in Nov.

Yours in Service
Ray M

NORTH EASTERN REGION

Area A

Hi all, Jody S, alcoholic and member of the Tuesday Night Steps meeting in Cairns. This is my first year as Delegate after taking over from Ian P in March. I'd like to thank Ian for his great work and guidance and wealth of information he has passed on to me from his experience. I have been learning so much in this new role already. I've been the Alternate Delegate the past few years, served on both Area and District committees for several years, been involved with Roundups and other areas of service, but this position is something new and exciting again, with its own set of challenges. One such challenge is the physical size of our Area. It comprises of the Far North District (extending up past Cairns and Cooktown), Townsville District and the Mackay District. A road trip from Cairns to Mackay is around 8 hours on a good day! Our Area trialed meetings by Skype video conference earlier in the year but without much success.

The Area itself is generally doing well financially with a number of groups within the Area donating directly and our main avenue of fundraising is the annual roundup which rotates between Cairns, Townsville and Mackay.

The Mackay District hosted our Area Roundup earlier this year over the May day long weekend, with a reasonable attendance. The Area Assembly was held on the Saturday where it was decided that due to the distances involved we would hold one Assembly over the roundup weekend and then just two Area Committee meetings, spaced roughly 4 months either side of the roundup. This should allow the committee to better focus on core activities.

The Mackay District hold monthly committee meetings which seem well attended for the size of their District. The committee also organize manning of a telephone line. Their committee are currently organizing a BBQ event at Bluewater Lagoon and making discussions with Rotary regarding AA guest speakers.

Townsville District will be hosting the National Treatment and Correctional Facilities forum at the end of September over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. This year's theme is "The Way Out". This will be my first treatment and correctional facilities forum so I'm looking forward to learning more about what goes on at a National level and some guides I can take back to the Districts. Our Area Committee meeting will be held on the Sunday following the end of the forum.

The Townsville District Committee meet monthly and recently rotated their committee positions. The meetings seem to get fair attendance. The committee also run a Central Service Office and make visits to the men and women's prisons. The committee recently organized a sausage sizzle and will be holding a meeting on 21st September to vote on Conference Topics. Townsville will be hosting the 2017 Area Roundup.

The Far North District committee meet once every two months. Meetings are generally poorly attended and the committee struggle to fill all positions. Majority of committee members never complete a full term so there is a frequent rotation of members which is disappointing considering the number of groups and membership base in the District. Various ideas have been trialed like change of time from a weekend to a weekday

evening, rotating the venue, etc. The District maintain an advertisement in the Wednesday and Saturday newspapers. The two correctional facilities are serviced on a weekly basis by two members. There is no official Treatment Coordinator but rather a few people work together to ensure the various facilities that are open to AA have one, or preferably two members attending each week. At the group level a number of groups often hold fundraisers for events like the Convention, Roundup or general fundraising for their group, District or CSO. Groups also hold general social events such as a BBQ or group birthday celebration. The Atherton group recently celebrated its 61st birthday with the entire period being in the same venue. The "Back To Cooktown" weekend will be held at the end of October this year and generally gets good attendance.

A separate committee run the Central Service Office in Cairns which moved venue at the start of the year to reduce costs. With this new venue the CSO are now able to rent out a small meeting room which is used by several AA meetings each week. A few months back the CSO passed a new constitution, replacing the previous one from 2009. The committee organize the AA phone line and organize the volunteers to service the office shifts during the week.

I also recently attended the Host Planning Committee meeting for the upcoming National Convention to be held in Cairns next July. Planning is well under way now with the website open for membership and flyers circulating around the country. At the last meeting we toured the facilities at the Pullman Cairns International Hotel which look fantastic. We feel the change of date to July will work well and is perfectly suited to the Cairns climate. At the last meeting only around 22 registrations had been taken, so we are encouraging everyone who is attending to get in and register online as soon as possible. Seats for the dinner dance on the Saturday are limited.

It's with regret I'm unable to physically attend what was due to be my first conference this year. Our Area's Alternate Delegate, Ken H will be attending in my place. I'd like to extend my gratitude to Ken for making the long trip down and joining you all on my behalf.

I wish Ken and everyone a great time at conference and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Yours in service.

Jody S

North Eastern Region, Area A Delegate

Area B

Greetings All,

I am happy to report that AA in all its wonderful and varied incarnations is alive and well in Area B.

There have been surges forward in some Districts and declines in others and ALL of it a reflection of life as it is.

I will start my report with some praise of one of our least talked about but essential areas of service, our Correctional Facilities volunteers. It was pointed out to me, and rightly so that I had made no mention of their efforts for our Area in my previous report to Conference so I am correcting that mistake, right here and now by giving them first place.

To Norm B and your dedicated team of volunteers to Woodford Correctional Centre. members who can travel up to 120ks at their own expense, who had racked up 12th Step work to over 1,100 inmates last calendar year. We salute you on a job well done.

One of our dear departed members from my home group got the message because he came for the 'biscuits and taylor made smokes' and ended up with 27 tears of sobriety. To you and your team and to Jim S, and his team who service Maryborough. Our heartfelt thanks.

AA is an ever changing landscape and sometimes in our efforts to rush forward we can go past some of the less spectacular but earthy scenery. I won't forget again We are blessed in our Area with some dedicated people who work tirelessly to create new interest and further the cause of AA and those who merely do the simple tasks that keep the wheels turning but all of you are important and it is my intention to represent you as best I can when I attend Conference.

We have recently welcomed a new district, District 8 representing the Gladstone region to our Area. Wonderful to see that small but willing gathering of groups putting the efforts into service work.

And we have unfortunately seen District 4 go into recession, hopefully temporarily. More evidence of the constantly changing face of AA.

Our District 9 is positively on fire with their PI work, particularly with the local and regional medical fraternity, as is the Brisbane North District. A stand at the recent Remote Area Doctors Conference and an upcoming Professionals Luncheon among their endeavours, plus continuous drops of pamphlets and literature to doctors' surgeries, Fire, Police and Ambulance Stations and Court Houses all adding to the Areas efforts to get the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

The multitude of individuals and groups contributing to our Area's well being is to numerous to mention, but I will mention this.

There are ALWAYS positions to be filled and jobs to be done.

SOOOO!

If you or your group or any number of groups in your District have something to say then there are avenues in the structure of AA to have your voices heard, so speak up.

And if you are not happy with the direction your group is taking then stand up. There are always service positions waiting to be filled and jobs waiting to be done.

I was recently fortunate enough to be interviewed for our Queensland AA magazine, Your Pathfinder and I was asked how I got the job as Area Delegate, to which I replied, I just showed up and the job needed to be done, so here I am.

To all of you who are out there looking on, jump in.

Service is our Third Legacy and one that will bring you rewards beyond your wildest dreams.

This will be my last report to Conference and I will end by saying that Conference and my experience as Delegate is something I will always remember fondly. For the opportunity it has given me to serve and the gift of being a small part of keeping AA in Australia living and changing thing.

I am grateful for all the wonderful people that have crossed my path and the disappointments that have helped me to grow.

Look outside your District, outside your Area, your State and across the Country. Be part of the whole world of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in Service,
Paul M.

Area C

Good day, John O'L, I am an Alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve Area C, Nth Eastern Region as their Delegate. The Alternate Delegate for Area C is Syd G and he is a great support to me and the Area.

I had the privilege of attending Conference last year, 2015 as Acting Delegate on behalf of Paul M. Unfortunately Paul was ill and showed strength and courage in making a decision not to attend. What an extraordinary experience! Alcoholics Anonymous in action at a level I had not experienced and I anticipate this year to not be any different.

On behalf of Area C, Nth Eastern Region I wish to thank Paul M for his contribution as Delegate. He served tirelessly and has set a high benchmark. We wish him good health and all the best in the future. I'm sure he will not be to long before he is involved in service at some level. Thanks Paul.

Area C, Nth Eastern Region covers south of the Brisbane River down to Coolangatta on the NSW border, through to Toowoomba, Warwick and Stanthorpe and Ipswich. There are 5 Districts in Area C, Nth Eastern Region, Ipswich, Brisbane Sth, Brisbane West, Toowoomba and Gold Coast. There are approx 120 groups.

My home Group is the Sunday Night Big Book Study at Southport, Gold Coast. Having moved to the Gold Coast recently I have been greatly encouraged by the strength of Alcoholics Anonymous on the Gold Coast. Suffering the standard issues present in Alcoholics Anonymous groups meetings continue to carry the message, support the 60/30/10 plan and have service positions filled at group level. The Gold Coast District whilst active reflects the ongoing issue of engaging groups to be involved in the General Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Toowoomba District is active and has on average 10 members attending District Meetings. Members carry the message of recovery, unity and service well. The District supports a AA 24hr Helpline and as such a number of the local groups contribute directly to the District. The Toowoomba District holds the October Rally each year and is always well attended and self supporting.

The Ipswich District is active, with an AA Rally named Soberfest was held in June. The rally was well attended with many members traveling from other Districts to attend. After a period of being dormant Area C is pleased to have the Ipswich District up and running. Carrying the message continues to be their primary purpose.

Brisbane West is active and has regular District Meetings which are well attended. This District holds a number of workshops annually and is well structured. On June 11 a Founders Day Meeting was arranged with two members sharing on the history of Alcoholics Anonymous, questions and then members sharing for a few moments each. A BBQ followed, a very special event and many new comers commented how much they had learnt about our history and the power of example.

Brisbane Sth is also active with on average 10 members attending regular District Meetings. The Brisbane District is discussing the opportunity to hold an Enthusiasm and Participation Meeting in the next few months. There are a number of AA weekends held in the Brisbane District.

There are two CSO in our Area: One in Brisbane and one on the Gold Coast. The Area and both CSO co-operate in an open manner. This does take effort however it has been proven the most effective way to ensure our Primary Purpose is being conducted at this level as best as practical. There is also a 24hr Ph Helpline in the Toowoomba District and one managed by the Brisbane CSO.

The Area C Assembly is held every 3months and is attended by approx 35 - 40 GSR, DCM and Area C committee members. Our last assembly was on August 28th and the next Nov. All service positions are filled on the Area Committee and these members are very active. It is a credit to them and the members who support them. A large number of groups, the Districts and Area C contribute regularly to the GSO.

In late July the AUSYPAA Convention was held in Beenleigh, south of Brisbane. It is a real credit to the committee the manner in which they planned, organized and managed the weekend. They had their challenges however their manner in overcoming these is a tribute to them. Having had the privilege of attending and according to many other members it was a convention to remember.

There was a Correctional Facilities Regional Forum held in Townsville in September. Unfortunately I was unable to attend however two committee members of Area C had the privilege to be there. Syd G, Our Alternate Delegate also attended. Our outgoing PI/CPC Chair also attended. A great experience for all and plenty of service knowledge to be gained.

The issue of discussing Topics and obtaining feedback continues to be an issue however we persist. The use of modern communications is an advantage however there is no substitution for face to face.

We continue to inform the groups and districts about the Topics, the need, the process and results.

The other issue we had was the reaction to the misinformation regarding the Fiji Convention. Whilst I support the right of each member to question and to hold and voice an opinion, the question remains to be asked 'Is this in the best interest of Alcoholics Anonymous?' I also believe the Board may have been prudent to release a response to the misinformation sooner than later.

I have a real privilege to serve as the Delegate for Area C, Nth Eastern Region. The Area, Districts and Groups are mostly active, in service, self supporting and carrying the message. We have our frustrations however there is a sense of optimism and strength and importantly communication remains open, forthright, informed and respectful.

Yours in Service
John O'L
Delegate, Area C, Nth Eastern Region

CENTRAL REGION

AREA A

Hi I'm Wally and I am an Alcoholic . I am the newly elected Area A Delegate of South Australia. Many thanks to the people that voted me into that position. I have held a service position on the Adelaide Central service office committee and held many different positions in AA groups over the years. I have been in AA. Hopefully this will hold me in good standing in the fellowship, and give me the opportunity to serve Area A, and the AA fellowship as a whole to the best of my ability.

Area A has forty AA meetings a week in its area. Vast in its size, from the north of the Torrens River Adelaide through to the Northern Territory Border.

Within Area A there are three Districts, Para, Northern and Western. Of the three, two are doing well. Hopefully in my three year term, I will frequent these meetings as often as possible, and help to unify the meetings and District's together to make a well functioning Area.

SA Area A Corrections report

In South Australia Area A we have four prisons. Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Yatala (Adelaide) and the Adelaide Women's Prison.

We are active in Port Lincoln and Adelaide Women's prison with an on demand arrangement at the Yatala prison. We are currently negotiating with the general manager of Port Augusta prison and will have clearances to start a monthly meeting in November.

Port Lincoln Prison

Attendance has been averaging 10 per week. Meetings are recovery based with The Book

Alcoholics Anonymous being the main factor in the meeting. We try to keep the meeting to recovery with references to the Doctors Opinion used mostly to help the newcomers identify with the basic aspects of our illness. ID meetings are not encouraged as they can lead to disclosure of events in the past which are none of our business.

Over the past six months there has been a good attendance of Aboriginal members. This has led us to the local community to obtain a welcome to Country Statement. This was bought up in group conscience and it will be read prior to our preamble. We are also sourcing a cultural awareness program presented by the local communities health centre. This will enable us to communicate with the members at a level of appropriate cultural recognition. The meeting is called GUBI WIEA which means Alcohol No in the local language.

Adelaide Women's Prison

The Adelaide Women's Prison is co-ordinated by Dot R who has 6 volunteers on her roster.

They go one week in mainstream population and the next week the living skills unit. Meetings are strong averaging 14 members with plans to start an internal meeting with prison permission.

Port Augusta Prison

Port Augusta Prison lies 300km North of Adelaide. The local groups are not very large and we are finding it difficult to get members to attend. the Prison management has agreed us to hold meetings monthly, this will start in November. Dave M and Jack S will travel to Port Augusta to hold the meetings with the help from Janet S from Quorn. WE are looking at getting members with clearances to travel from Adelaide until such time as the local groups can support the group.

Jack S. retiring Correctional Services Rep.

P.I. Report

Our awareness campaign is doing well, with information folders and brochures being distributed to many Medical Centres, Hospitals and other institutions, through out the Districts and Area.

Recently Area A P I officer Clinton M, Made a visit to the Alcohol and Drugs Unit, at the Holden Hill Police Station, He gave a presentation which went well, he was later approached by the Unit, asking for further Literature and Information for their Crime Prevention Unit. Clinton will be giving another Presentation to the Domestic Violence Unit and the Crime Prevention Unit. with help .

Yours in Service

Wally H .

Area A Delegate , Central Region .

AREA B

Area B Central Region covers a large diverse area of South Australia incorporating the Riverland (Loxton, Renmark, Berri, Waikerie) The Adelaide Hills (Hahndorf, Aldgate, Stirling, Mt Barker, Strathalbyn, Murray Bridge) across to the Victorian boarder (Mt Gambier and Millicent), and The Fleurieu Peninsula (Goolwa, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla, Sellicks Beach, Aldinga, McLaren Vale, Hackham, Meadows) and following the South Coastal Region to The City of Adelaide, the River Torrens being a boundary between Area A and Area B.

Our members holding positions on the area committee as follows,
Noeline Chairperson, Darren Secretary, Ash T+CF officer, DJ Treasurer, Elizabeth as Area Registrar and Rob Alternate Delegate, at the moment we do not have an enrolled PI+CPC officer but Rob has been caretaking the position.

Our meetings are still held on the last saturday of each month at 9.30AM at the Repat hospital conference room, here in Adelaide.

We currently have 54no groups in our area split up into 4no districts in the passed year we have been fortunate enough to see the revival of the Riverland District and the Southern district, both of these districts are now functional and both send DCMs to our area meetings

In the passed year we have held a successful camp at Roonka on the river Murray attended by 100 members.

Treatment and Correctional Facilities

Treatment

The Glenside Withdrawal Services

Glenside Withdrawal Services is a Detox Unit funded by the Government and the only withdrawal unit in SA apart from Acute Cases. Our [T@CF](#) officer Ash facilitates this unit and assists in providing sober members of AA to attend every Friday at 6.00pm to hold a 60 minute meeting. These meetings are facilitated by individual groups from within our area on a rota basis. Literature is provided on request

The Woolshed

The manager of The Woolshed is very happy with the service AA provides there. We have 3 no groups from within our area who provide an AA continuous attendance on 3 Tuesdays of the Month.

Again literature is provided on request

Southern intermediate care centre

Members attend to provide an information session to the residents generally once a month

Aboriginal Sobriety Group - Lakalinjeri Tubmetiri Waal (Frahn's Farm) Monarto

Recently members from Murray Bridge have been holding meetings at 7.00pm on a Thursday evening. Still in early stages

Manor Bourne Private Treatment Centre

Members attend 3 times a month on a Thursday evening to participate in an AA meeting attended by residents residing and also any old residents who wish to come along. This treatment centre provides its own literature.

Corrections

Mobolong Prison

The meetings at Mobolong prison are running well and we have a full rota of members attending on a fortnightly basis. This year we have had 4 new members inducted who are now attending regularly

Cadell Prison

We are now holding meetings in Cadell and these meetings are being facilitated by Stevon from the Riverland, it is still early days for us in this prison and although there are regular meetings, fine tuning is still needed for meeting times.

Mount Gambier Prison

Members are now attending Mount Gambier prison on a weekly basis when members are available

Adelaide remand centre

Members attend on a request basis and in this passed year we have attended two health expos to present an AA stand providing information to the inmates

Overall our area is now covering 100% of prisons within our geographical area.

P.I +CPC

The host planning committee has now been formed for the 2017 National PI+CPC forum here in Adelaide, the venue will be the Grand Chancellor Hotel and this has been prebooked for the 8th,9th +10th September 2017. More info will follow early next year. Rob C is the chair of the planning Committee

We have an enthusiastic team of members who are always ready to carry out PI opportunities.

Adverts continue to run on Triple M providing information on AA,

We have attended the Gen next expo recently and that was a great success

We are also providing members to speak at AI-Anon meetings on request

AREA REGISTRAR

Our area registrar has been busy obtaining contact details for all of the groups in our area, this will make it easier to get this years Conference topics out to as many groups as possible.

Our area is in a sound financial position where our prudent reserve has been maintained. Funds are always available to put to use in PI+CPC and T+CF.

Central Service Office

The Central Service Office is in Room 120, Level 1, 38 Gawler Place, Adelaide.

Chris W. is our office administrator

The CSO also has a new email address being; cs0@aa-sa.org

I have been actively involved this year on the Policies and Admissions committee teleconferences and the Agenda committee.

This will be my last attendance to conference as Area B Delegate, my experience as Delegate has been so rewarding on a personal level but more importantly it has been great to be part of a forward moving area that rarely diverts from its primary purpose of carrying the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic.

Andy P
Area B Delegate, Central Region.

WESTERN REGION

Area A

Hello, My name is Christian and I am an alcoholic and I was elected to the position of Area Delegate for Area A, Western Region in February this year. Brian D, who had previously been the Area A Secretary was elected Alternate Delegate.

Area A, Western Region covers from north of the Swan River, in the heart of Perth CBD, to the North West of the State and out to the WA/SA border.

All committee positions in Area A were vacated and new committee members were elected in February 2016. Area Assemblies are held every 3 months and are attended by an average of 20 GSRs. We currently have one district – Swan District which operates from the Perth CBD to the Eastern Suburbs. Area A is currently organising a workshop to rekindle interest in re-starting the other districts that are in recess.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Marjo N was elected PI & CPC Coordinator in February and the following initiatives have been undertaken since then:

Speaking At Schools – Secondary schools in the Area were emailed to offer speakers. There has not been a strong response, however, there was an enthusiastic response from the school that did have 4 AA members speaking to three classes of year 9 & 10 students. Good feedback was also received at an interactive literature stand at a high school health fair. Also, Areas A & B had a stand at a “Next Gen” Conference at Edith Cowan University with lots of interest from attendees which may result in more speaking engagements at girls schools for ages 11-15.

Library Displays – The Scarborough Encouragement group has arranged for a library display with literature and posters at Scarborough Library and it is hoped that other groups will take the same initiative with libraries near them.

TREATMENT & CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Weekly meetings are taken into Bridge House, a Salvation Army detox facility and Graylands State Mental Health Hospital and are going well. Staff at Next Step, a short term Government rehab, have reported that some members’ sharing their experience, strength and hope has triggered patient reactions. Our coordinator, Kate D, has done an excellent job of hearing their concerns and a workshop was held on Speaking At Non AA Meetings to ensure all speakers were aware of how to represent AA at Non-AA meetings. Cyrenian House Rehab now has a new AA meeting and a coordinator.

Bandyup Women’s Prison

Julie H was elected as coordinator in February. The roster is running well with 2-3 members attending each fortnight. Attendance of inmates fluctuates from 2 to 15. Attending on a weekly basis is currently being trialled. AA has been invited to attend a half day Expo at the prison. Last year, our stand was very popular with many of the women appearing to be genuinely interested in attending the meetings.

Correctional Facilities (Male)

Matt S (new coordinator) has been working on getting clearances for Wooroloo Prison and is looking for more volunteers for the prison rosters. Otherwise, everything is going well.

SWAN DISTRICTS has undertaken a number of initiatives including:

- Liaising with the National Drs and Nurses conference
- Having an information stand at the Practice Managers' Education Day
- Distributing doctors packs to GPs in the District
- Library Displays
- Funding newspaper notices
- Providing volunteers to attend the Perth Magistrates Court
- Attending the Street Doctor service

WAYPAA – Remains strong holding many fund raising events throughout the year to fund their annual convention in December.

2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION

A Host Planning Committee has been formed for the 2018 National Convention in Perth. The committee has been formed with members of Area A & Area B, Western Region. We have a dynamic team of members including some younger WAYPAA veterans. We have Chairs for all the Sub-Committees and they have started bi-monthly meetings. Fund raising has already commenced with some generous donations from groups and a fun run was held in July which was a hugely successful event and we were able to make the next progress payment of \$10,000 for the venue.

I look forward to being of service over the next three years as an Area Delegate and I am sure I shall learn a lot from the process.

Christian G
Delegate, Area A, Western Region
13/9/2016

Area B

Hi my name is Dominic H and I am an alcoholic, and I am the new Area B Delegate for the Western Region. I would like to thank the Area for entrusting me with this position and look forward to serving over the next three years. Area B covers an area south of the Swan River in Perth, to Albany and East to the WA /SA border. We have approx seventy-five to eighty meetings in the Area, which includes ID, Big Book, Topics, women's meetings, steps meetings and speaker meetings; in fact we have quite a wide variety.

The Area B Committee has all service positions filled apart from PI and we are working to find a suitable member to take on the role. All committee positions are rotated in accordance with the guidelines. The T&CF Rep is busy; the male Prisons in the Area, Casuarina, Hakea, Karnet and Wandoo are all holding AA meetings, which are well

attended, and the Female prison, Boronia, has requested we stop going in for the time being. The Area holds Assemblies four times a year which are generally well attended.

We did have two Districts in the Area, Port and Peel, but unfortunately Port has gone into recess. A group of members are working to get the district running again. Peel is very active; they regularly attend the courts in Rockingham and hand out literature, and speak to lawyers and police connected with alcohol related offences. They recently held Workshops to encourage newcomers into service, and libraries in the district have AA literature replenished regularly. Once a year Peel District hosts an Old Timers 'Nostalgia Day' which is very popular and well attended, and keeps the older members involved in AA.

WAYPAA is extremely active in Western Region and regularly hold fundraisers to support their annual convention, which was well attended last year; everyone is looking forward to the next one. WAYPAA members are also involved in service work within the wider service structure.

2018 National Convention

Perth will be hosting the 2018 National Convention. As I have only recently been elected as Area B delegate I have not yet attended any of the HPC meetings, but the Western Region Trustee has informed me that they are forging ahead with preparations. Chairs have been elected for all Sub Committees and there is lots of interest and enthusiasm. The HPC are holding bi monthly meetings and are financially on track, with more fundraising events in the pipeline. There is a strong commitment from the young people in the West to be involved, which is very encouraging.

Yours in Services
Dominic H
AREA B Delegate
Western region

NORTHERN REGION

No report

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome all.

Since my nomination and acceptance of the Chair role for the Board, we have had many tasks to attend to, none more than our financial position, which I will say is needing the attention of the fellowship. Our (the Board) primary purpose is to hold registered trademarks, maintain literature, national phone number, support the CSO's and groups of the Australian Fellowship. The primary income to support and manage these functions is from literature sales, donations, some in the form of generous donations and bequests

Our literature sales have slowed considerably to due eBooks and the likes of Kindle. Also there has been a swing to purchase of books and the like from websites.

I don't believe we can ever replace the hard cover books! But we need to find a way to maintain an income to carry out our function of supporting the members of AA around our great nation. Many ideas have been tabled open for discussion.

My role as Chair has many facets, one of which is to steer us in a positive direction, I felt that we needed support form external sources and some education around our roles as directors of a company. We engaged a solicitor to guide us through our responsibilities and legal obligations, and this was possibly the best education for us all. Included in this meeting was a look at legal obligations with our licence agreement for trademarks and how we can manage that. Our licence is due for renewal in 2018.

The Board has put a plan on page which consist of 3 major functions for us to focus on, Class A Trustees, protection of trademarks, AA member services (PI & member Involvement).

On the front of class A trustees, we have had responses and general enquires and we have interviewed 5 in the last 9mths. The short note is some of the candidates cannot commit as they would like to due to their own circumstances. However, should their personal situations change they would willingly give their support to us. There have been 2 very positive nominations put forward to the Nominating Committee for review and I sincerely hope they accepted. Both candidates come highly recommended.

The Australasian convention was held in Fiji this year. It has been a highlight of my personal membership in AA and in my life as a whole. The PI day was the best result we in AA could ever have imagined or hoped for, some 170 plus general public attended. This included members of the World Health Organisation! The acknowledgements of AA and Alanon alike is the best attraction we could ever hope for.

The great work and effort (done by a few) must be applauded. To manage and run an event never done before and overseas is truly a feat for those involved, and yes not without some pitfalls. But it was said at this very conference in the lead up to try this, learn from it. However, it was marred by some very poor behaviour by some members of the Fellowship post-convention. Absolutely disappointing that people cannot see the great work done, and here's the catch, that single event (the PI day) got 4 people sober (and still so to this day). The word spread, and a few more meetings in another country! and AA recognised at the World Health Organisation conference in Geneva! How awesome is that!

The future moving forward - we the Board try our best to manage what is been asked by the members at Conference, and we will endeavour to carry our responsibilities with integrity and lead AA into a bright future.

Thank you for trusting me to carry your vision forward.

Brett F
Chairman General Service Board AA Australia.

TRUSTEES' FINANCE & BUDGETARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Verbal report given at Conference

TRUSTEES' TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Verbal report given at Conference

TRUSTEES' CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES REPORT

Members around the country continue to try to carry the message into Correctional Facilities.

Brian S is acting as National Corrections Co-ordinator, until a new co-ordinator can be appointed.

Production of a CD Rom for use in Correctional Facilities is nearing completion.

Members working in Queensland Correctional Facilities were invited to a lunch with AA members. About 40 professionals attended and this event was reported in the Corrections News.

Members in NSW have been successful in starting an AA meeting at the Villawood Detention Centre.

I attended the Treatment & Correctional Facilities Forum in Townsville in September. A report on this forum will be given at Conference.

Mick C

TRUSTEES' INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

AOSM

No word has been heard yet re template for finance concerning finance contribution to the AOSM. This will be followed up and it is hoped more information will be provided at the board Meeting in November.

Planning for the AOSM being held in Mongolia will be commenced later this year re Delegates reports and an Agenda for the meeting.

FIJI

We need to ascertain the relevant banking details in the first instance. EG Using an account title rather than an individual's name.

Using a bank such as Westpac or ANZ and opening up an account in Australia and being able to transfer funds from Australia to Fiji. Mike Eastaway is helping here. Looking at doing a visit to Fiji before Xmas as a follow up for the Fellowship and taking more literature etc.

A letter has been sent to GSO NY re Australia not being in a position concerning sponsoring a Delegate from another country attending the WSM in NY in October 2016.

Yours in Service
Tony V
World Service Delegate

TRUSTEES' PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome all,

What can I say it has been a rather busy year to date!

Let's start with Fiji! We were welcomed with open arms in March or 2016, the committee worked tirelessly to arrange the PI day held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva. With some 180 guest invited and attending! Including the World health organisation country directors, health and wellbeing minister and minister for corrections in attendance. Guest speakers, both non-alcoholic and alcoholic gave awesome speeches and received more than applause! We went to give and give we did!

Al-non also was warmly received and received as much attention as AA did. On the back of all this was; having a few locals commit to AA and al-non alike to start and commit to regular meetings , on the day many breakaway groups held mini workshops to show the local members what and how they can continue the journey in sobriety.

In May 2016 I was (on short notice) invited to return to Suva to have sit down and round table meeting with the minister of health and entourage to discuss a way forward and plan how the health ministry can help us carry the message around the country. There is staged approach in place and they will make use of the AA fliers, pamphlets and short TV ads.

It is envisaged that we may host another PI day primarily for the media and other ministry departments so they gain an understanding of what they can and can't do and the same like for us.

The results of this PI day are encouraging and the work and commitment by the organising committee for our Australasian AA commitments. I can only imagine how far the word can spread should we host another PI day of the likes as what we did in Fiji. This event is a prime example of into action and is our Primary purpose!

I would like to extend a huge thankyou to Phyllis G and her very small team in Fiji for the efforts they are going to pass message of AA and all their work they did helping put together the PI day in Fiji.

Onto other matters:

National PI coordinator role is up for grabs and nominations are open for review. I personally would like to congratulate Leigh F in her role a massive major effort that been put in by her and her merry band of helpers.

Thank you Leigh! A job description has been posted on the national service website, AAAA and in the PI patter, what a great little mag that is!

Great work and commitment to ALL members whom have assisted along the way and attended the workshops on PI and hosted stands a varying conferences/conventions around our great country.

Item of interest from AAWS, they are looking at setting up an Armed Services Committee at Board and Conference level. Perhaps the conference committee would like to discuss ideas around this should time prevail.

Brett F
Trustees PI & CPC Committee chairman's report

TRUSTEES' GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

As well as Chairing the GS Committee meetings I participated in the June and August Agenda Committee teleconferences. These went well and the agenda and dates were agreed.

Notable items from the action list are:

1-7/16: The Board resolved to recommend to the Conference Agenda Committee to include a session on Thursday, prior to the commencement of Conference, for the General Service Board solicitor to provide information on privacy issues, directors responsibilities, etc. The Agenda Committee to also be requested to remove any inaccurate and confidential information from topics and/or attachments.

#061/2015: Conference resolved that when a Conference Committee recommendation is lost, the next step is to go straight to the original topic and vote on that topic or its amendment/s directly.

#020/2015: Conference resolved to reject the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's' recommendation that Advisory Action #46/2014 which states "Conference resolved that, in future, the Chairperson of the General Service Board should open the Conference with an Acknowledgment of Country statement." be revoked, as this advisory action is against the Traditions of the AA fellowship.

In fellowship

Bruce M - GST

TRUSTEES' NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome to all,

We have been without a few Class A Trustees for some time now and much work has been done in the background to advertise and recruitment of Alcoholic members to the BFoard. At the last few Board meetings we have discussed what we can do to recruit. There have been many ideas brought to the table with varying types of skill sets. This has been workshopped at our Board meeting in July with several recommendations for the conference Committee to discuss.

As chair of this Committee I have had several phone interviews with some interesting candidates such Mrs Fiona McLeod from the Law Society. She had prior commitments at the same time as our conference, so is unable to commit to AA at this point and we will review in 2017.

Another interview I held was with Mrs Liz Baxter from APSAD , also she has a national conference at the same time as our November conference and will review her personal situation in early 2017 and respond to myself .

Other contacts have been made with Professor Thomas Founce Professor of Law in the ANU Medical School, who is willing to become a class A trustee and has filed a nomination form for us to review.

Also we have had contact other interested parties such as Professor Nick Glasgow Head of the ANU School of Medicine, Dr Mark Wentinong from the Aboriginal health and community Board of medicine (Cape York). Dr Mark currently has too many commitments to give us the attention he feels we deserve and has declined our invite.

They have both indicated their interest and will reply to their intentions at years end 2016 early 2017.

I have also had conversations with a new candidate from QLD miss Ruby Jones, she has sound knowledge of AA as she has family in our Fellowship. She comes with a Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) of which she graduated in 2013. she also obtained a Graduate Certificate in Criminology and Criminal Justice which she completed in 2015. she is looking to continue study next year with a Masters of Social Work and would eventually like to work within the justice sector to assist and support those needing to navigate the justice system.

There has been a proposal put forward to have a sub-committee charged with recruitment. vetting and proposing Class A trustees, and also General Service Trustees (as required) to the Board.

This Committee would consist of people from the Fellowship, and a Class A trustee if appropriate, approved by the Board for their special business and executive recruiting skills the sub-committee would require the following skills, have worked at a high level in business have served on other Boards and have been involved in recruiting and they have a solid reputation within the Fellowship. The current arrangement; whereby all Board members sit on every Committee. It seems that things aren't followed through because nobody is sure exactly who is doing what. When it is a Committee of two or three you know what is required of you.

The procedure document states that the Trustees Nominating Committee may "engage such persons as deemed necessary to research applications for any vacant position and establish criteria, objectives and review procedures to assure itself (and the General Service Board for which it acts) that others are given proper attention to the task." So it is within the guidelines to form such a sub-committee. A concern is that sometimes nominations have been put forward to the Board and have been taken up in any meaningful way by the Board, and then forgotten due to other commitments. The sub-committee consisting of The Chair of the Conference Committee on Trustees, the Chair of the Trustees Nominating Committee and two or three members from the Fellowship with suitable background and qualifications would be tasked with this job and then report to the Board with recommendations.

I would encourage discussion around this; however as Chair of the Board I have contacted and spoken to all people that have been mentioned either by email or from other Trustees. As above I have certainly put effort in to make contact with them all and had healthy response from all. As we invite non-alcoholic trustees to join us we must remember that they too have very busy lives and they have to weigh up how they see the fit to their own cause. And what time they can commit to us (as we hold our business on weekends), they have all indicated that they have families too!

I personally struggle with the concept of bringing in non-alcoholic members to the Board and have them bear witness to some of the ludicrous behaviour such as we have had over the past years , especially when past class A trustees have resigned their position; stating to the Board they do not feel safe in our environment.

In service
Brett F
Chairman Trustees Nominating Committee

TRUSTEES' LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

National Magazine

The viability and feasibility study for the National Australian Fellowship magazine recommendation has been approved by the board, with some minor alterations. I hope this initiative will be embraced by the wider membership as it offers a marvellous opportunity for us to strengthen the unity within our fellowship while offering members a National platform on which to exchange views and share experience, not only of personal recovery, but also of service. The proposers recommendation that the magazine develop along the lines of the Grapevine, having editorial autonomy while still maintaining the spirit of group conscience through the magazine 'sub-editors', will be interesting to watch unfold. The Grapevine has a long tradition of respectful but at times robust debate on all aspects of our fellowship and was the main vehicle of communication for Bill's writings, particularly on the traditions. I wish the project all the best.

Security of the Archives

Several issues have arisen over the last year in relation to the Archives. They include the following:

- 1) *The need for Guidelines for members requesting access to the Archives*
- 2) *The need for professional assessment of the Archives; condition, organization and storage*
- 3) *The issue of 'sensitive' or confidential material contained within the Archives.*

To address these issues I have suggested to the board the following;

- 1) That a set of guidelines be drawn up for members wishing to access the Archives. (A draft of these guidelines was presented at the July board meeting).
- 2) That a sub- committee consisting of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year delegates, the Chair of the Conference Literature and Archives Committee, the Chair of the Trustees Literature and Archives Committee be set up to
 - a) To determinate what might be classed as ' sensitive ' or 'confidential' material held in the Archives
 - b) To decide whether this material is necessary to retain
 - c) To decide who would have access to such material.
- 3) That a professional Archivist be engaged to assess and advise on our Archives. (*Refer to points a),b),and c) in the **Scope** section of the **Composition Scope and Procedure Document of the Trustees Literature and Archives Committee.***

AAWS

Valerie brought to my attention that AAWS are developing a pamphlet focused on AA members working with members with mental health issues. They are also reviewing the pamphlet AA for **The Alcoholic with Special Needs** and considering substituting the words 'special needs.'

At the Atlanta International Convention last year a speaker, who was not only alcoholic but also gay, Jewish and profoundly deaf, appealed to the sixty seven thousand members present not to regard him as a member with special needs but as a member who requires 'facilitation'. How would you fair, he asked, if you were all deaf and I was the only one here who could speak?

Paul B

Chair Trustees Literature and Archives Committee.

TRUSTEES' REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

With regard to **GUIDELINES Advisory Action #055/2015**: Conference resolved that Remote Communities Guidelines be produced including information on:

- Why the Remote Communities Fund was set up
- The process for application for funding
- Full details of the administration of Remote Communities Fund, including funding approval guidelines
- Clarification of the process for appointing and reporting for Remote Communities Coordinator positions
- A description of the linkage between Regional Coordinator roles and Areas in the Service Structure

A new GUIDELINE GL-35 has been drafted and will be presented to Conference 2016. The new guideline addresses the issues raised in the advisory action and includes role descriptions for the National and Regional Coordinators.

Western Region

Unfortunately, there has been no Remote Communities (hereafter RC) activity in Western Region this year because of the resignation of Damien T. from his position of Regional Coordinator, due to ill health. I would like to thank Damien for his efforts in carrying the message to indigenous communities in the Western Desert and the Pilbara. One of Damien's contributions was a group of posters he produced using aboriginal models, which I'm sure will be of help to future RC initiatives Australia-wide.

North-Eastern Region

Diane C. and her RC Committee have been active in Queensland. The meeting listings and contacts for country towns that appear in the Pathfinder have been reviewed and updated. The committee are also working on strategies for using the existing AA network in remote communities to help with RC initiatives. The Committee has researched the possibility of running a Skype meeting and developed a format, but will not proceed with the initiative at present. For now they will link interested members in remote locations to existing Skype meetings, such as the one run by the Nundah Group in Brisbane. Diane is in the process of approaching all Queensland Areas to request that remote communities be added to their agenda items so that the RC Committee can report to the Areas and create interest and generate funding. The North-Eastern Region RC Committee has submitted a topic to Conference 2016 suggesting changes to the interface between Regional RC Committees and the Area Committees. Diane and her committee have also drafted a workbook, to be reviewed by Conference and, if agreed, it will be available as a resource offering suggestions on how to carry the message to members, groups and professionals in a remote setting.

Great work Diane and the rest of the North-Eastern Region RC Committee.

Diane was able to participate in the Qld Tag Along in June/July and I have included her report on the event below.

In Service

Kerry S

Chair Trustees Remote Communities Committee

Tag A Long 2016

What an adventure, how do you describe this wonderful AA Fellowship journey? There were various fellowship opportunities; cooking, damper making, yabby catching, caring and sharing around lovely campfires under the blanket of the sparkling night skies.

For me it all started when I picked up the hired Travelwheels campervan on the 8 June and I set off for Lightning Ridge. My participation at this weekend was purely personal and I thoroughly enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of Lorne Station where I met some lovely people. Some of the highlights was the soup night with 5 types of soup to choose from, the cricket match (which had to be experienced) with the umpire spending more time putting the spectators in the sin bin instead of watching the players and the bore baths were a frequent destination even in the middle of the night

after meetings, they are open 24 hours during the long weekend and very popular. It was great to once again catch up with Cheryl and Phil from the caring and sharing tape library who taped the weekend meetings.

After leaving the Ridge I teamed up with the tag-a-long and I had a lovely time learning how to drive at 80 –85 kms per hour and leaving a large gap between the car in front. We free-camped at St George and spent a lovely evening of fellowship, feeding everyone with damper and fish. That was where I earned my nickname of daylight Dia, this was due to my calendar being incorrect and I took off at daylight thinking I would be late for the PI meeting in Mitchell, which ended up being held in the evening. :)

Wasn't a total loss as I got to meet our hosts Darryl and Rose; and theirs and Seamus's yard soon filled up with about 20 vans, campers and tents, the overflow stayed at Fisherman's Rest or in the local caravan park. After contributing to the meals provided by Rose, all were handed a Mitchell bag full of information of events, timing and locations. We all sat down to a lovely 3 course meal then headed to the Memorial Hall for the PI meeting. This was where the newly made remote banners were revealed which looked fantastic. Darryl was successful in having a couple of interested newcomers attend, the local School Principle and a journalist from the Roma Western Star News. We have since heard on the grapevine that the principle was very impressed by the whole event. A men's meeting was held at the campfire and coffee pot with the women meeting at the local BAG Cottage (Booringa Action Group). The women's meeting was especially for Linda, she really enjoyed as she does not get to experience face to face women's sharing. All this and days of walking to the local Artesian Spa which also sufficed as the daily bath, camp oven cooking, barefoot bowls, a trip to Roma for dinner and attendance at their local meeting and local site seeing. On a PI note it was good to see that the AA meetings and activities were not only on the towns notice board but also in the Mitchell June 2016 Tourist Information pamphlet.

On to Morven where we enjoyed a lovely sausage sizzle and attended the meeting usually attendance is two members. Some members stayed in the local recreation grounds while others headed into Charleville to attend to voting and the tourist attractions. Vince from the caring and sharing tape library joined the Tag – A Long who then taped the rest of the meetings. The Monday PI meeting was well attended by members who supported the lone member. Free camping is a good way to conserve funds but also has its drawbacks as some members found themselves bogged in the Rock Pools. The Tag A Long found their way back to Morven for a weekend of meetings and fellowship, which also included a sing-along. Here there was a group conscience held and the proposed tag-a-long for 2017 was discussed and agreed (copy of the route is attached).

The next destination was the lovely little town of Tambo. Here we had the opportunity to change the meeting from PI to an ID meeting to accommodate the potential member who attended on the recommendation of the local Police. The meeting notice was prominently displayed in the local library.

Due to the amount of rain that had fallen out west (really appreciated by the station owners) the proposed meeting at Isisford was moved to Barcaldine. The Blackall Aquatic Centre was a welcome stop on the way and we enjoyed the pool and the entrance price was subsidized by the local council. Most people stayed at Lara Station and I was told it was a beautiful place to stop, however due to the conditions of rental for the Campervan I could not drive the dirt road to see for myself.

The tag-a-long then went through Longreach for Winton; it is here that a divide began to happen with most of the people who were travelling to the NT wanted to spend more days in Longreach instead of driving to Winton and then return to Longreach.

In Winton 23 members met at the hotel for the dinner prior to the meeting which was a fabulous turnout. The meeting ended up being an AA meeting as no members of the public attended, however the lone member enjoyed the meeting so much that he requested that we attend another one on the next night. Most of the members attended and a 7th tradition was requested to assist the member to pay for the meeting venue. He kindly donated the \$64.50 to the Remote Communities Fund which was gratefully accepted and transferred into the GSO bank account. On a personal note I really enjoyed Winton and some of the members took a tour to the Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways and I was very grateful to be provided a set of keys from a local so I could drive out to see the Age of Dinosaurs. The gifts of sobriety can still amaze me.

Longreach was of particular interest and the group had two professionals Shirley Marks who works Partners in Recovery Support Facilitator for Centrecare North Queensland and Debbie Kimber Mental Health & ATODS Service from the Longreach Hospital servicing Central West Region. The meeting was held for an hour and afterwards the professionals had lots of people to talk with and both were presented a Big Book from the Cooloola Cove group.

Snow the long-time member at Alpha was gravely ill and few members visited their home and to spend time with him and his wife Daphne a long time Alanon. The meeting was great and Daphne supplied a lovely cake with was enjoyed by all who attended. The venue required payment and 7th tradition was taken to raise the funds.

What can you say about Rubyvale? It was a great place to stop and we were entertained with the 12x12 (24) steps mine tour, horseshoes, movies and a wonderful spread followed by all those attending sharing (AA's & Alanon).

During the journey the Outback District presented the local community libraries with the book "One to Another" Australian history book as they have previously donated the book 'Alcoholics Anonymous'. The books were part of a donation from the Toowoomba Group who agreed to fund books and pamphlets as part of their Remote Communities support. Pamphlets were also distributed by the Outback District and I also compiled packs and left them at various professional organisation such as Clergy, Health and Police.

As the Queensland Remote Community Coordinator I would like to thank Darryl, Rose, Linda and Ron, Outback District member's for their service to AA and the amount of time, energy, effort and passion they expend in carrying the AA message to the remote sections of Qld.

My observations of ways the Remote Communities Committee can assist the tag-a-long in future are:

- Prepare a draft PI Meeting format for submission to the Outback District for agreement,
- Assist with the identification and communications (monthly) to professionals in the towns that will be visited in the next tag-a-long, this will hopefully encourage more of the target audience to attend,
- Suggest a PI person conduct a "Speaking at Non-AA Meetings" workshop at Mitchell as one of the first activities,
- Assist with fund raising to pay for items such as literature and venue hire used for the PI activities,

Yours in Service
Diane C
Remote Communities
Coordinator (Queensland)
North Eastern Region

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE REPORT

Staff

There have been no staff changes this year.

Literature

The following items were printed locally throughout the year:

Item	Quantity Printed
Pocket Big Book	10,000
Came to Believe	1,000
44 Questions	13,000
Young People and AA	4,000
A Newcomer Asks	25,000
Letter to a woman alcoholic	5,000
Making a start in AA	12,000
AA for the aboriginal	4,000
AA Group Handbook	2,000
Group Contributions Plan	3,000
PI Posters	2,000
Anonymity card	3,000
12 Steps and 12 Traditions card	20,000

Chris produces CDs and DVDs in house on an as-needed basis, and these have not been listed.

I have attached a list of all items sold during the period 1/7/15 – 30/6/16

Conventions and other functions attended

All staff attended the Australasian Convention held in Suva, Fiji.

Chris S attended the Eastern Regional Forum held in Sydney in September.

Support of professional events

GSO has supported several professional events throughout the year either by supplying literature or by contributing towards any costs involved. We have feedback which indicates this has raised awareness of AA amongst the professional community considerably.

Equipment purchased

There were no major purchases during the year.

Board meetings attended

All staff attended the 2016 Board meetings held in February (Darwin) and July (Sydney) and will be attending the November 2016 meeting. During the February meeting we had the opportunity to meet with local members.

Insurance

The public liability insurance policy has been renewed to 30 July 2017 at a cost of \$8,270

Management Group

All staff attended the monthly Management Group meetings held at General Service Office, which were also attended by the General Service Trustees.

Co-ordination & Review Committee

All staff attended the Co-ordination & Review Committee meetings held at General Service Office monthly.

Finances

A copy of the end of year audited financial reports will be distributed to all delegates.

International Sponsorship Fund

As at 30/9/16 there is \$844 available to send to GSO New York for the International Literature Fund. This will be transferred to them before the end of the year.

As at 30/9/16 there is \$6,157 remaining in this account for use in the Asia/Oceania zone.

Remote Communities Fund

Members have donated \$3,773 to assist carrying the message to remote communities.

Rent

Our rent remains at \$2,350.47 per month.

Archives

Brian S from Pymble Group continues to do a great job on sorting the archives and visits the office at least once a week.

Trademarks

All Trademarks are current.

AA Around Australia

The Intellectual Disability Foundation of St. George, whose premises are just a few doors down from the office provide us with a fast, professional and very affordable distribution service.

Website Development

There was no major expenditure on website development throughout the financial year. Our thanks to Steve T and David McQ for their ongoing assistance with this valuable public information tool.

Service Website

Thanks also to Julie L for her work on our Service Website. National Office staff continue to try to encourage members to use this site.

1300 Number

Working well, with very few reported problems. Throughout the year the cost of operating this service was \$7,153. We continue to cover all costs associated with this number.

Valerie M

World Service Delegate Report

There is not a great deal to report at this point in time.

I will be visiting Sydney and attending the Eastern Regional Forum On September 24. This is being hosted by Area D and the program looks to be well thought out. It should be a great day.

I will be attending the National Treatment and Correctional Facilities Forum in Townsville from September 30 to October 2. The theme is "The Way Out" and it augers to be a very good weekend of sharing and learning how to improve carrying the message into these Facilities.

Three members of the Brisbane Traditions Group plan to visit Honiara and Malaita from October 6-11. The Fellowship needs some support there and we will be holding some PI meetings particularly in Malaita. We have not visited there previously so it will be a new adventure!

David and I will then be attending the Twenty-fourth World Service Meeting in New York from October 23-27.

The Theme is; One World – One A.A., - One Language of the Heart"

We have been invited to attend their Board meeting that will be held after the WSM. A report on these activities will be given at Conference in November.

Yours in Service

Tony V

World Service Delegate