

March 2018

AA Around Australia

The brown paper bag appeal

Quarterly
newsletter
published by the
General Service
Office of
Alcoholics
Anonymous
Australia

 (02) 9599-8866

 gso@aa.org.au

 48 Firth Street
Arncliffe NSW
2205

 www.aa.org.au



First Term World Service Delegate Brian S writes about the Founder's Day International Sponsorship Fund.

The Idea for the Founder's Day Brown Paper Bag Appeal started in 1993 when Tom "The Finn" spoke at General Service Conference about the state of Australia's support of the International Literature Fund. In the 30 years that it had been running, the Fellowship in Australia had donated only \$64.00 to help carry the message to the alcoholic in distant lands. Considering the fact that AA Australia was responsible for getting this Literature Fund started in the first place, when, at an early World Service meeting in 1963, by submitting a suggestion for such a Fund, this sum of money was embarrassing for the Australian Delegates at the 1994 Conference. It was from this poor performance that the symbolic Brown Paper Bag idea took root as the icon to garner greater support for the raising of funds for the International Literature Fund.

The response to this idea was overwhelmingly successful amongst the Fellowship of Australia. In 2000 the name of the fund was changed from the International Literature Fund to the International Sponsorship fund. At that time 25% of the funds were retained for use in the Asia/Oceania zone. The rest was sent to GSO New York for the International Literature Fund (used solely for translating AA literature into languages other than English. In 2003, (advisory Action 005) Conference resolved that 75% of funds donated would be retained for use in the AOSM zone and 25% sent to GSO New York for the International Literature Fund.

This decision opened the way for the Fellowship in Australia to meet its international obligations of carrying AA's message to the Alcoholic who still suffers in other countries including the Solomons, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Fiji and Mongolia.

On the 10th June 2018, the Founder's Day Brown Paper Bag Appeal will be launched to raise funds to support the continuing supply of AA literature for this important and worthwhile cause. It is suggested that AA Groups around Australia donate their 7th Tradition funds from their meetings during the Founder's Day Week, to the Literature Fund. If we achieve such a level of generosity, it will enable impoverished countries access to literature that would ordinarily be cost prohibitive for the struggling groups and suffering alcoholics in those countries.

For example, the fund helps to subsidise the costs for 33 different publications of the Big Book in different languages. The benefit of this funding was personally brought home to me, when I was in the Solomon Islands five years ago. The local AA Groups had pamphlets that were written in Pigeon English. This would not have been possible without the aid of the Literature Fund. Although I could not understand what they were saying at some meetings, it was a sheer joy to witness the Solomon Islanders embrace our Program of Action. I will not forget their enthusiasm in sharing with each other our 12 Step answer to the alcoholic dilemma. An answer, a solution, the Message of Hope, which the funding of the Brown Paper Bag Appeal made possible, was demonstrated to me through this experience!

Calendar of events

Australian AA National Convention 2018

March 29, 2018 @ 8:00 am - April 2, 2018 @ 5:00 pm
Rendezvous Grand Hotel, 148 The Esplanade
Scarborough, WA Australia
Website:
www.aanatcon2018.com.au

International

JULY 2020

2020 International Convention – Detroit, Michigan USA

July 2, 2020 - July 5, 2020
More details as they happen!

Malta – 12th International English Speaking Convention March 23 - March 25

Seashells Resort, Suncrest
Hotel Qwara, Malta + Google Map
Friday to Sunday 23rd to 25th
March Seashells Resort, Suncrest
Hotel, Qwara, Malta

3rd International Conference of Secular Alcoholics Anonymous Toronto, Canada

August 24 - August 26

When: August 24th to Sunday
August 26th, 2018 Where: The
Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton
Centre Hotel, Toronto, Canada
Additional details: Additional
details: Further information can
be found at <https://secularaa.com>

New South Wales

There Is A Solution: Byron Shire District Convention, Mullumbimby NSW March 23 - March 25

Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall
and CWA Hall 55 Dalley St,
Mullumbimby NSW register at
byronshireaaevents@gmail.com or
text to 0423958466

Redfern Sunday Morning Group – 35th Birthday March 25

Ron Williams Activity Centre 5/11
Kepos St Redfern NSW

ANZAA – Trans Tasman Woodstock April 27 - April 29

Keller Hall, Burns Ln Caringbah
Weekend registration \$60
Rangi 0400 423 913,
Sharon 0416 152 657

53rd Port Macquarie & Hastings District Rally June 1 - June 3

Flynns Beach Surf Club
Tuppenny Road (off Pacific Drive)
Contacts: Ziggy: 0417 219 752
Tony: 0466 914 539 with Al-
Anon & Alateen Participation

Nowra Founders Day Celebrations June 16th 2018,

St Michael's School
De-Mountable: Corner of North
and Shoalhaven St Nowra
Contact Mark S 0432 369 058

Sydney Men's Weekend August 17 - 19 Vision Valley,

7 Vision Valley Rd
Arcadia, NSW Australia
Romain M 0402 553 524, Ian M
0437 582 804

2018 Sydney Boomerang Round-up October 19—21

Sydney Masonic Conference
Centre, 66 Goulburn Street .
Contact: Darren D 0422 255 930

Queensland

40th Annual Gold Coast Rally May 4 @ 6:00 pm - May 6

Albert Waterways Community
Centre Cnr Sunshine & Hooker
Blvds Mermaid Beach (Behind
Pacific Fair) For AA info call Syd
on 0458 668 675 or Linda on
0450 684 233. For Al-anon info
call Janice on 0409 342 560 or
Julie on 0413 124 468. Email
contact is Syd on
avago131@bigpond.net.au.

Toowoomba October Rally October 5 - October 7

Toowoomba Show Grounds,
Glenvale Road Toowoomba,
There is no on site
accommodation, but there will be
plenty of camping available, more
information to come.

Victoria

Melbourne AA Steps Weekend 2018 April 13 - April 15

Banyule Theatre, 10 Buckingham
Drive Heidelberg, Vic Australia
Call on (03) 9028 2212 to find out
more about the event.

If you would like your fellowship event listed on the national AA website, please fill in the online form at aa.org.au/members/add-an-event or write to General Service Office, 48 Firth Street, Arncliffe, NSW 2205.

AAAAAAG*

- Quarterly national service newsletter of AA Australia
- More than 1700 copies printed each issue
- Stories from individuals, groups, areas or districts about newsworthy initiatives welcome
- First published as News Digest in 1969. Renamed AA Around Australia in March 1972

*AA Around Australia At A Glance

HAVE YOU LOGGED IN TO THE SERVICE WEBSITE?

Share your experience
and gain some
inspiration from what
others are doing.

www.aaservice.org.au

AA service in Correctional Facilities

My behaviour while drinking landed me in a fair bit of trouble with the establishment and towards the end of my drinking I voluntarily entered numerous treatment centres. As resident of these various centres, sober members of AA came and spoke of their experience, strength and hope. Being rather unwell at the time I did appreciate them coming to share but didn't really want to take the action they had taken.

After being finally smashed by king alcohol I was given the gift of desperation. I returned to AA meetings, became willing to take different actions, asked a man to be my sponsor & joined an active home group that did service at local prisons/ remand centres and treatment centres.

While working the steps through the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous my sponsor explained to me the 3 sides of the triangle, Unity, Recovery, Service & started taking me into treatment centres with him. He impressed upon me my responsibility as a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous to carry the message outside my

home group, as well as having a service position within my home group. I learnt the 12 steps were about giving not getting. As soon as I could, I started driving the treatment centre bus taking clients out to AA meetings and after gaining clearance, sharing at the local prison meeting.

I began to experience a completely different kind of peace that I could only put down to taking this action. True to my nature I wanted more. After a couple of years, I became a panel leader, then Treatment & Correctional Facility Coordinator reporting to the Area.

Dealing with the Prison staff, treatment centre staff, coordinating AA speakers, sitting in business meetings and Area Assembly's has given me experience & skills I would have missed had I not been sponsored into service and become involved.

Today I still share at the local prisons & treatment centres. I take AA members through the traditions as outlined in the 12 x 12 and AA Comes of Age. I also introduce them to the 12 Concepts for World Service.

By the Grace of God, I am sober today. I would like to thank those who came before me who showed me how & you because it's a privilege to be of service.

Paul J—Perth

The way we were?

WOMEN IN AA

This is the first of a regular series of articles which will appear in the Bulletin, written by the newest addition to the Bulletin staff, Mrs. Sybill F. Her next month's article will be entitled "How to Approach a Woman AA."

May 1945 marks the fourth anniversary of the pioneer group of women's AAs in the United States. Planned and conceived by a few women who felt that they were "lost" in a world of men alcoholics—the little band met in each other's homes.

When, by July, the membership had increased to the incredible total of six, they approached Irene Hirsch and interested her in opening her home as a hospital. This then became the first Women's AA hospital in the country. A cheerful, homey place it is run with close adherence to AA principles and governed by a hospital committee consisting of three members. Here, too, the women found a meeting place, not only for their regular Wednesday night group, but somewhere to go when they were a bit "shaky" or a little blue. One was always sure of a friendly piece of advice and a cup of coffee at Irene's.

The membership increased slowly but steadily. More and more women who hesitated about going to mixed groups identified themselves with the West Side Women's Group.

The men helped tremendously both by bringing in patients, who in turn became members, and by lending their willing support when outside speakers were needed. The wives of the men have been very gracious and cooperative at all times. The women AA's no longer feel they are in a world apart. They help others and in turn are being helped to make a place for themselves, which after all is the very essence of AA.—S. F.

Public Information Folder improves presentation

Designed to fit neatly into a DL envelope, this folder is a new product from GSO and will add a professional touch to your next Public Information mail out or presentation. The DL size means that any of the range of Australian printed AA pamphlets will fit into the sleeve and there's also room to put a business card with contact details. Perfect for Doctor's to keep in their desk drawer to refer a patient to help from AA.



Price: \$1 from your AA stockist

Competition

How will you use the new folders? Send your PI ideas to the National PI & CPC coordinator, Dave S, aapicpcnational@gmail.com

The best idea will win 50 folders made up.



National Convention program

Thursday 29.3.18

4pm-5:30	Preston C	Al-Anon "Taking my luck as it comes"
6pm-7pm	Preston C	Al-Anon PI "How it works"
4.30pm-10.30pm	Blackwood	AA Continuous Meeting

7pm-9pm	Grand Ball Room East	Public Information Meeting AA with Al-Anon Participation 7pm - Welcome 7:10 - Preamble What AA is and is not 7:30 - Guest Speaker from Treatment Centre 7:40 - Guest Speaker from Correctional Facilities 7:50 - Al-Anon Speaker 8pm - AA Speakers 8:30 - Finish but please remain to chat
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Friday 30.3.18

Room	8-9am	9:30 - 10:45am	11am-12:15pm	Lunch	1:30-2:45pm	3pm-4:15pm	4:30-5:45pm	6pm-7:15pm	7:30-9pm
Preston A	Daily Reflection	Panel - Step 1	Panel - Service		Panel - Step 2	Alcoholic Motorcycle Enthusiasts	Panel - Step 3	The Home Group (Heartbeat of AA)	
Preston B			What it was like. What happened & what it's like now		AA in Treatment Centres	Panel - Traditions 1-6	FIFO Recovery	Finance and Romance. What takes us out.	
Grand Ballroom East		I am Responsible - The Hand of AA	Men's Meeting		Workshop - Forming True Partnerships	Guest Speaker Meeting <u>Shrikanth</u>	One on One (Sponsorship)		WELCOME TO PERTH
Grand Ballroom West		Willingness	Women's Meeting						
Culver Al-Anon	Sunrise Meeting					Workshop - Concepts			
Preston C Al-Anon		Just for Today I will have a program			Growing up with the Family Disease of Alcoholism		I will save myself		
Burney Alateen		Alateen (closed)				Alateen (closed)			
Blackwood	8.00am-10.30pm Continuous AA Meeting								

Saturday 31.3.18

Room	8-9am	9:30 - 10:45am	11am-12:15pm	Lunch	1:30-2:45pm	3pm-4:15pm	4:30-5:45pm	6pm-7:15pm	7:30-9pm
Preston A	Daily Reflection	Panel - Step 4/5	GLBTIQ		Panel - Step 6/7	L.I.M.	Panel - Step 8/9	How AA has improved my life	
Preston B		AA in Correctional Facilities	One Day at a Time		Emotional Sobriety - The Next Frontier	The Problem and the Solution	Love and Service		I can't dance sober
Grand Ballroom		Spiritual Awakenings	Panel - AA in Asia Oceania		How It Works	Dinner Dance Set Up			7pm-11:30pm Dinner Dance
Culver Al-Anon	Sunrise Meeting		Workshop - Singleness of Purpose			Workshop - Sponsorship The Al-Anon Way			
Preston C Al-Anon		Just for Today - Accepting Others			Living with an Alcoholic				
Burney Alateen			Alateen (closed)		Alateen (closed)				
Blackwood	8.00am-10.30pm Continuous AA Meeting								

Sunday 1.4.18

Room	8-9am	9:30 - 10:45am	11am-12:15pm	Lunch	1:30-2:45pm	3pm-4:15pm	4:30-5:45pm	6pm-7:15pm	7:30-9pm
Preston A	Daily Reflection	Getting Sober in Country Meetings			Panel - Step 10	Panel - Step 11		The family afterwards	Young and Sober
Preston B		Panel - Traditions 7-12	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders				Single & Sober	Gratitude	
Grand Ballroom		Humility	Spiritual Concepts		Voices of Long Term Sobriety (Old Timers)	International Visitors with Al-Anon Participation	Panel - Step 12		Happy Joyous and Free
Culver Al-Anon			Workshop - Sponsorship in Alateen						Al-Anon as a way of life
Preston C Al-Anon		The Spiritual Concept with Alateen participation			Happiness recovering from the family disease		Perspectives		
Burney Alateen					Alateen (closed)				
Blackwood	8.00am-10.30pm Continuous AA Meeting								

Monday 2.4.18

Room	8am-9am	9am-10:15am	10:30am-12:30pm
Grand Ballroom Full	Daily Reflection		Closing Ceremony
Preston C Al-Anon		Farewell Meeting with Alateen Participation	

10:30am Closing Ceremony	
10:30am	Welcome and find seats
10:45am	Passing on the candle
10:50am	Outgoing Regional Trustee
11:05am	Sobriety Countdown
11:25am	Two minute gratitude shares for those who haven't shared
12:30pm	Farewell



53rd Australian National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous 2018

with Al-Anon & Alateen participation

Thursday 29th March - Monday 2nd April
Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough, W.A.



www.aanatcon2018.com.au

Australian Service Structure Review

Summary Of The Australian AA Structure Inventory Discussion Paper

The 2017 General Service Conference recommended that AA Australia should take structural inventory.

Conference 2017 recommended the following advisory action:

Advisory Action #001B/2017:

- 2018: The findings so far, and tell us what you want.
- Discussion paper and on-line survey.
- Circulate a Discussion paper informing the fellowship on the general service conference workshop (2/11/17), adding that an on-line members survey will follow for the fellowship to participate.
- The on-line survey to be activated around the time of the discussion paper.
- The survey will seek the following information:

- Are we fulfilling our primary purpose?
- What, if any, are the issues at local, area, regional, national levels of structure?
- What would you change?
- Findings submitted to conference 2018.
- The conference submission would be an inventory document to inform the desire for structural change if any, or to address *smaller matters via topics of conference*.

The discussion paper is the first stage of a process intended to inform Conference, Central Service Offices and other Service Entities what the Australian Fellowship may want, if anything, regarding structural change.

No inventory of the Australian structure has been taken in nearly half a century. Therefore, the paper aims to provide sufficient information for members and Groups to be able to further help Conference by completing an online survey about fulfilling our Primary

Purpose; Structural Issues (Local, Area, Regional and National); and any Desire for Structural Change.

After reading the paper (containing feedback from each region, and background information), we hope you and your group will complete the 34 question survey embedded in the link on page 5 of the discussion paper. The results and feedback from this survey will be reported to conference 2018 to inform a further paper raising the issues and the processes required for any changes.

The Discussion paper (with the link to the survey) is available from many sources, your Area Delegate, Central Service Offices, the AA Service website and by emailing australianinventory@gmail.com.

Groups and members are urged to take part in this important and historic event.

The link to the online survey is on page 5 of the Discussion paper.

**If you decide to print off the survey, please send completed copies to:
GSO of AA
48 Firth St
Arncliffe NSW 2205**

One billboard inside Redfern, NSW



Redfern Railway station was graced with this eye-catching billboard in January. It didn't take out any Academy Awards, but it may have saved some lives.

AA Public Information is vital to our fellowship.

New Literature

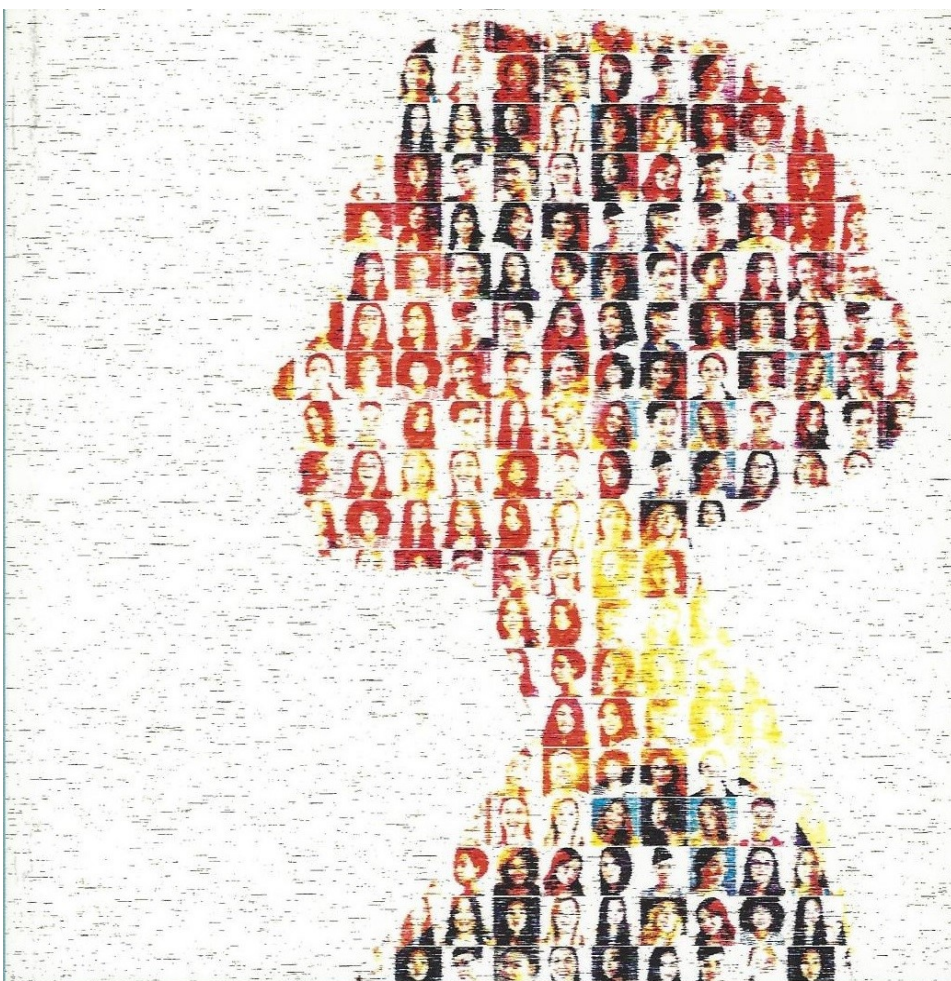
Voices of Women in AA 08GV-37 RRP \$20

This latest offering from Grapevine Publishing continues their trend of anthologies from stories originally written for the Grapevine magazine.. This one is a collection of articles on and by Women in recovery. Arranged in ten themed chapters, and spanning the years from 1953 to 2017, the editors at Grapevine have selected stories of experience , strength and hope. Fittingly, the first story in Chapter One is by Lois Wilson and named *Family Circle*, first published in 1953. Chapter one is titled *Our Beloved Friends*, and includes stories written by Henrietta Seiberling, Ruth Fox and also includes a story about Sister Mary Ignatia.

Chapter two, *Pioneers*, is all about the early women alcoholics who got sober and helped open doors for more women. Chapter three *Spiritual Journeys*, is stories from women sharing their experience with Step two and has a story from 2011 by a Nun.

Chapter four *Sponsoring Others* gives us six stories about the special one-on-one bond of women sharing their experience (and time). In *Every Second Counts*, Mindy S. wrestles with anger and acceptance when her beloved sponsee informs her that she has decided to work with someone else. Mindy finds more than acceptance when more is, literally, revealed. Chapter five, *Beyond Her Wildest Dreams*, shows us how recovery makes powerful changes in the lives of AA women and leads into Chapter 6, *Forming True Partnerships*, which has stories on repairing, renewing and rethinking romantic relationships.

Chapter seven, *Our Families*, is



VOICES OF WOMEN IN AA

Stories of experience, strength
and hope from Grapevine

where we read about sober women who heal and grow in their relationships with their children, partners and parents. Chapter 8, *Worker among Workers*, is six stories about sober women in the workplace including *Pandora's Bottle* from 1951, which is just as relevant today as it was then.

The book finishes up with chapters 9

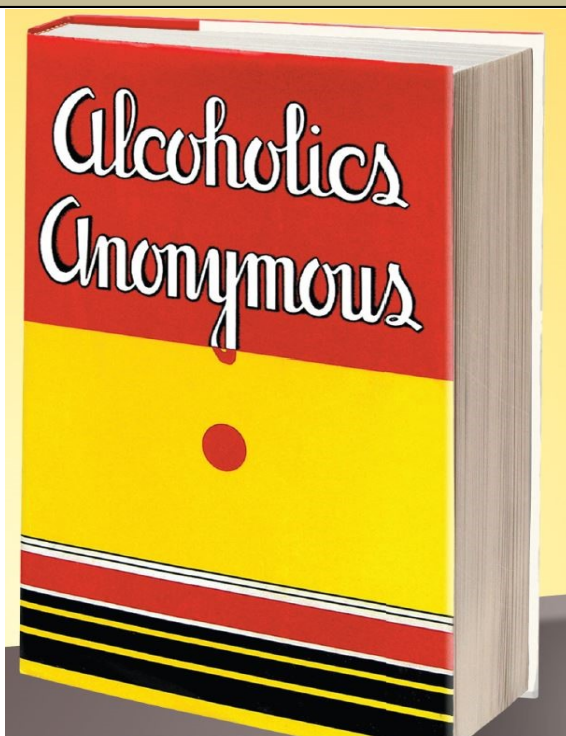
Lifelong Friends about sober women finding new, often unexpected, friendships and chapter 10 *Women's Meetings* 7 stories about women finding fellowship and recovery together.

This book will make a great addition to your recovery library and is available from your local AA literature stockist.

75th Anniversary Replica

A.A. World Services, Inc. has released the publication of the only A.A.W.S.-authorized reproduction of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

This new edition is a faithful replica of the original, with the famous "circus cover" dust jacket and bulky paper (which is why it was initially called the Big Book), and is published in the original English language text only.



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic publication of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 1939, the 2013 General Service Conference (US) approved the creation of this facsimile edition of the first printing of the first edition.

You can purchase a copy of this book through your local Central Service Office. If there is no literature service available where you are, you can order directly from GSO. Price \$17.60. Stocks are limited.

Important Notice AA Around Australia 2018

After discussion on our Fellowship's current financial position, at their last meeting in November the General Service Board agreed that it was necessary to introduce some cost cutting measures in 2018. There will only be two issues of AA Around Australia published next year – March and September 2018.

Information such as forthcoming events can still be published on the national and service websites and recovery stories etc. can be shared in the national e-magazine 'The Mixer'.

National Public Information banners

AA gets invited to participate in many events around Australia, and increasingly, national professional association conferences and conventions. The General Service Office has commissioned a suite of pull up banners that can be used to give Public Information events a professional appearance. The 3 heavy duty banners (2 x 850mm and 1 x 1800mm) can be shipped anywhere in Australia and are available free of charge to members (you do, however pay for the freight). Contact GSO for further details.



Service —The Concepts

North Eastern Region Area B Delegate Chris B reflects on service and the AA Concepts

In the early days of AA there were 3 (maybe more) entities.

These were “Works Publishing Inc.”, “The AA Grapevine Inc.” and “The Alcoholic Foundation Inc.”, which had all been created largely by businessman Bill.

When Dr Bob died in 1950 it forced Bill to acknowledge his own mortality, and the possible demise of AA. Bill had enough foresight to know that AA would collapse if he and the other early Trustees (the majority of whom were non-alcoholic), did not act to ensure that AA would continue to be a life-saving and a life-changing way of life.

It must have been very scary for Bill to foresee all this, by the facts of them being real pioneers – truly forging a path into the unknown, increasing physical and spiritual sobriety, the financial depression, World War 2 and the aftermath, and then losing his best friend, supporter and counterbalance. It seems that Bill knew absolutely that he had to keep this vessel afloat. However, none of us were there, and we can only speculate, and study Bill’s writings.

Concept One famously states that: THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY ... SHOULD ALWAYS RESIDE IN THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIENCE OF OUR WHOLE FELLOWSHIP.

In one fell swoop, Bill turned normal management structure on its head. This in itself was a miracle when we think of Bill’s business background and corporate thinking. The groups were in charge, and every member from the newest to the oldest has an equal say.

So Concept Two which talks about the Principle of Delegation, starts to unravel the nuts and bolts of HOW to allow such a strange structure to work. It is intrinsically bound up with Tradition Two, which goes some way

to explaining its “strangeness”.

Take yourself back to your last Group Conscious meeting. Some newer members, still trying to get to grips with the language and mores of AA. Confused. Too shy to speak. Hell bent on standing by their own interpretations of what they see or don’t see. Not sure of their rights or obligations for that matter. Some Older members who know everything...maybe. Trying to come to a decision upon a matter which seems to be of some importance, but not really sure of all the ramifications. An informed Group Conscience? I think not. But AA battles on, and things do get done.

However, imagine the Group Conscience scenario multiplied by

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stumbles in the
darkness one short
block from this room.*

— Bernard B. Smith

1000 people, or 10,000, or even a million, (which is half the estimated membership of AA world-wide). All those Alcoholics in varying stages of wellness, depending upon the day, with all the attendant problems of everyday life, all in one place, trying to come to an agreement. The legendary tower of Babel would have absolutely nothing on a bun-fight like that!

Which is why Bill formulated the idea of the Delegates, and Areas, and Conference itself.

Bob had transferred most of his responsibilities to Bill, as New York

was deemed to be the better situation to do the work. Even with all the handing over and delegation, Bill and Bob still functioned in an advisory capacity, and still felt that they held an ultimate responsibility to AA for the proper organisation and structuring of AA. They would be held accountable because groups still looked to them for leadership and guidance, rather than to the little known Trustees.

This is why the GSR is the most important job in AA. It is the GSR which brings the collective opinion and vote of that one Group to District ... and back again.

This is why GSRs should all attend Area Assemblies, so they can bring the voice of their Group to Area ... and back again. It is where the Delegate to Conference is elected, so if your GSR is not there, your group has no voice.

It is the MOST wonderful democratic structure. The General Service Conference of AA is “the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs”.

Initially the Alcoholic Foundation dealt only with matters of finance, but their range of responsibility grew in the response to Bill needing support, as the other service areas expanded.

For example in 1940 they all saw that the book needed to be put in trust for the whole Fellowship, so the stock (shares) in Works Publishing was turned over to the Board of Trustees. I don’t know if Ruth Hock who was dubiously paid in shares had to surrender hers! The income from the book largely financed the Service office.

Works Publishing had been set up by Bill and his friends, and it was turned over entirely to the Board. The Grapevine is another legal entity which is managed by paid staff, who are answerable to AA World Services

Little by little other branches of the business, including management of the money, public relations, and all the subcommittees we have, were set up under the auspices of AA World Services Inc.

The problems with transferring

responsibility and authority to the board were that the Trustees not well known amongst the fellowship. The Board was self-appointing and self-perpetuating, and largely made up of non-alcoholics. This balance was eventually reversed as the Alcoholic old-timers were more and more able to trust their collective conscience and not have to rely upon non-alcoholics to guide them. This happened in 1954/5.

Having said that, some of the non-alcoholic Trustees were remarkable people, not the least of which was Bernard Smith, and I take a moment to digress to his beautiful speech given at the 1954 meeting in New York.

Why Do We Need a General Service Conference?

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

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

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

what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is".

Bernard B Smith was very instrumental in helping to set up our masterly structure. We certainly owe all our Trustees much.

So to the structure:

In a perfect world:-

Each Group elects a GSR.

GSRs get together at District and from that group of GSRs elect a District Committee.

Concurrently with the District, GSRs get together with other GSRs from a geographical area set by Conference vote.

It is that group of GSRs which elect the Delegate.

Delegates get together only once per year to elect our Class B Trustees, and to discuss and vote on the Topics for conference submitted by the Fellowship.

[A Group; A District; An Area; and most importantly an individual. All may submit a topic which then goes through the process.]

The Board of Trustees also submits topics for Conference.

In this way, the Delegates are the effective conscience of the whole Society (or in our case, of Australia). In practical terms for the day to day running of the conference and all that that means, the groups, while holding the final authority, are reliant on The GSO to undertake these tasks.

Calico banners available soon

THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.
3. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional 'Right of Decision.'
4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional 'Right of Participation,' allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5. Throughout our structure, a traditional 'Right of Appeal' ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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GSO have now started printing The Twelve Concepts for World Service on calico the same as the rest of the AA banners. They will be available for sale from after Easter and can be ordered through your AA stockist.

07BA-06

**12
Concepts
Banner**

\$40

Group Contributions December to February

CENTRAL REGION		CR	Area C ER		ER/C	SOUTHERN REGION		SR
Area A CR		CR/A	Bolton Point		300.00	Area A SR		SR/A
Brompton Beginners		90.00	Central Coast Rally		100.00	Lorne		200.00
Gawler		223.95	Charlestown Fri Freedom		60.00	Warmambool Central Fri		100.00
Henley Beach		288.60	East Gosford Thur S&T		40.00	Warmambool Tues pm		150.00
Henley Beach Indigenous		75.00	East Maitland Fri		250.00	Total Area A:		450.00
Junction Midday		78.00	Hamilton SA		60.00	Area B SR		SR/B
Kadina Recovery		72.10	Lambton BBS		30.00	Albury Lavington Wed Night		200.00
Kapunda		90.00	Long Jetty Beginners		90.00	Bendigo District		600.00
Kilburn		210.00	Mayfield		108.00	Castlemaine Thurs		113.70
Mansfield Park		181.25	Nelson Bay Sun Night		1,000.00	Castlemaine Sun		80.00
Malvern		90.00	Newcastle Coasters		100.00	Kangaroo Flat		150.00
Port Adelaide Friday		193.15	Tarro BBS		400.00	Shepparton Chapter 6 Motorcycle		100.00
Port Augusta		45.00	Terrigal BBS		50.00	Shepparton Fri		200.00
Salisbury Friday		45.00	Wyong Steps		30.00	Total Area B:		1,443.70
Semaphore Serenity		91.75	Total Area C:		2,618.00	Area C SR		SR/C
Sunday Women's		15.60	Area D ER		ER/D	The Deal		2,301.15
Two Wells		238.55	Bowral Womens		156.00	Albert Park Womens		50.00
Total Area A:		2,027.95	Mittagong Sun Night		120.00	Armadales		120.00
Area B CR		CR/B	NewYPAA		300.00	Bairnsdale Weds		300.00
Adelaide BBS		90.00	Pemulwy Wed pm		74.31	Bentleigh Life's in Session		60.00
Adelaide Beginners		180.00	Riverwood		160.00	Caulfield Sober Saturday		145.27
Aldinga		73.60	West Wollongong BBS Tues		80.00	Elwood Wed 6pm		431.40
Aldgate		102.25	Total Area D:		890.31	Malvern Rule 62		100.00
Bedford Park		232.35	Area E ER		ER/E	Moorabbin LS		50.00
Belair		119.55	Area E Groups via NSCSO		10,147.06	Mount Martha		310.00
Berri S&T		57.20	Baulkham Hills Sunday		50.00	St Kilda Saturday Night Live		230.00
Breakfast Groups		60.00	Seaforth Wed am		300.00	South Melbourne Recovery		360.00
Brighton Women's		30.00	Total Area E:		10,497.06	Toorak Wed Happy Destiny		221.60
Burnside Friday Lunchtime		141.85	Area F ER		ER/F	Total Area C:		4,679.42
Burnside Welcome		22.00	Lithgow Thurs		200.00	Area D SR		SR/D
Christies Beach		85.50	Orange Tues Night		300.00	Ballarat BBS		100.00
Eastwood Recovery		45.00	Wagga City Wed		700.00	Ballarat Womens		62.00
Flinders St Friday		62.35	Total Area F:		1,200.00	Clifton Hill Big Wednesday		180.00
Glenelg		120.85	Area G ER		ER/G	Diamond Reflections		100.00
Goodwood		249.00	Balmain Sat		153.00	Flemington Discussion		80.00
Goolwa		82.95	Balmain Thurs pm		279.20	Geelong Breakfast Bill and Bob		90.00
Meadows		94.45	Camperdown Thurs		151.68	Geelong Sunrise		150.00
Mt Barker Sober on Sat		47.00	Coogee Living Sober		210.00	Hoppers Crossing Thursday		100.00
Murray Bridge		30.00	Darlinghurst Sun 5pm		330.00	Laverton Daytime		60.00
Norwood		136.85	Darlinghurst Recovery		210.00	Moonee Ponds Big Book Tues		84.00
Park Holme		61.50	Erskineville		150.00	Torquay Wed BB		165.00
Payneham		61.50	The Into Action Group		240.00	Werribee Thurs		50.00
Payneham Womens		54.94	Kings Cross Sun 7pm		10.37	Western Unity		300.00
Spiritual/Speaker		90.00	Leichhardt Saturday		408.00	Yarraville Tues		50.00
Serenity by the sea		60.00	Lilyfield Steps		540.40	Total Area D:		1,571.00
Total Area B:		2,390.69	Maroubra		96.00	Total Southern Region:		8,144.12
Total Central Region:		4,418.64	Paddo Sat B'fast		150.00	NORTH EASTERN REGION		NER
EASTERN REGION		ER	Paddington Wed pm		192.00	Area A NER		NER/A
Area A ER		ER/A	Rocks Breakfast		660.00	Atherton		120.00
Area A		1,000.00	Surry Hills 11am Groups		135.00	Aurukun		24.00
Armidale Breakfast		300.00	Surry Hills 11am Sun SC GL&T		152.63	Ayr Recovery		67.50
Armidale Early Birds of Faith		258.10	Sydney City Wed 8am Lawyers		60.00	Cairns BB Mon		120.00
Kyogle Wed 7pm		50.00	Vaucluse Tuesday Night		90.00	Cairns Lunchtime		90.00
Kempsey Thurs		100.00	Wayside Chapel		180.00	Cairns CSO		356.57
Laurieton		150.00	Wesley Groups		843.26	Cooktown		50.00
Manning/Gt Lakes District		800.00	Total Area G:		5,241.54	The Strand		105.00
Mullumbimby Tues S&T		30.00	Area H ER		ER/H	Townsville Annandale		40.00
Mullumbimby Thursday JFT		300.00	Blaxland PPG		200.00	Upper Ross/Rollingstone		240.00
Northern Rivers District		500.00	Burwood Sun		212.60	Total Area A:		1,213.07
Port Macquarie Womens Sat		70.00	Guildford Mon		30.00	Area B NER		NER/B
Tamworth Sat 3pm		644.60	North Richmond Recovery		100.00	Albany Creek/ Carseldine HP		20.00
Wauchope		100.00	Parramatta Town Hall Fri		30.00	Aspley DR Sat am		90.00
Total Area A:		3,302.70	Penrith SOTS		100.00	Auchenflower		111.00
Area B ER		ER/B	Springwood		150.00	Bray Park BBS		83.79
Bawley Point		145.00	Tahmoor Mon 6pm		160.00	Bribie Island		210.00
Bega Fri Night		100.00	Toongabbie Fri Night		100.00	Brisbane Roma St.		50.00
Bermagui		100.00	Toongabbie Sun 8pm		90.00	Brisbane Traditions		30.00
Goulburn Thurs pm		50.00	Windsor 10am Friday		82.00	Bundaberg Fri Night BBS		50.00
Moss Vale Thurs BBS		100.00	Total Area H:		1,254.60	Total Eastern Region:		25,499.21
Total Area B:		495.00	Total Eastern Region:		25,499.21			

Group Contributions December to February

Bundaberg Thurs Night	100.50	Southport Wed 10.30am	30.00	Unknown Internet Deposits	Unknown
Bundaberg Sunday	120.00	Southport Wed Beginners	4.90	7/12 City Daily Reflections	35.00
Caboolture Big Book Recovery	60.00	Toowong Mens Topic	60.00	7/12 134 Donation	50.00
Caboolture Sunday/Wed	96.00	Toowong Young Peoples	60.00	11/12 20408	66.00
Caloundra Earlybirds Wed	30.00	Toowoomba BBS	55.00	18/12 Deposit	20.00
Cooloola Cove	50.00	Toowoomba How	90.00	19/12 Friend of BillW	90.00
Coolum	330.00	Toowoomba Sat	26.55	19/12 Deposit	310.00
Cosmos Fri pm	60.00	Toowoomba Step 11	100.00	20/12 Deposit	55.15
Dorrington Steps	90.00	Toowoomba Tues Night Recovery	150.00	21/12 3763	50.00
Eidsvold	30.00	Toowoomba Womens	100.00	27/12 Deposit	36.00
Howard	120.00	Tugun Thurs	15.00	28/12 Deposit	100.00
Margate Beginners	509.38	Tweed Hds Thurs Hospital	60.00	28/12 Way of Life Vic	288.97
Maryborough Sat BBS	100.00	West End Monday	145.90	2/1 134DonationJan2018	225.00
Mooloolaba Beginners	600.00	Yeronga BB Basics	60.00	2/1 20418	180.00
Mooloolaba Tues Mens	150.00	Total Area C:	7,153.45	4/1 Deposit	60.00
Nambour Saturday Night	270.13	Total North Eastern Region:	15,167.83	10/1 Common Welfare	60.00
Noosa Sat pm	132.00	WESTERN REGION	WR	15/1 deposit 15012018	60.00
North Brisbane District	700.00	Area A WR	WR/A	15/1 Deposit	240.20
Nundah	60.00	Balga	60.00	17/1 Paddington	181.90
Paddington Sun	51.51	Universal Steps	90.00	25/1 Seize the Day	300.00
Pialba	1,200.00	Early Openers	60.00	25/1 City Daily Reflections	54.00
Pomona	500.00	El Salvador	30.00	29/1 Deposit	30.00
Redcliffe LS	90.00	Heathridge Womens	60.00	29/1 Belmont	40.00
Redcliffe AM Recovery	102.00	High Wycombe Steps	60.00	29/1 Breakfast group NBG	70.00
Sobriety Sister weekend	300.00	Inglewood Women's	30.00	30/1 Coomera	255.95
Taringa Steps	225.00	Joondanna Fri	60.00	31/1 Port Macquarie	250.00
Tin Can Bay 12 x 12	80.00	Kalamunda Mon	42.45	31/1 387359	350.00
Total Area B:	6,801.31	Kalamunda A New Freedom	36.00	1/2 2756	150.00
Area C NER	NER/C	Kalgoorlie	126.05	6/2 06022018	60.00
Amity Steps Mon	28.00	Maylands Daybreak	75.00	6/2 CBA 134DonationFeb	250.00
Annerley Womens	300.00	Midland BBS	45.00	6/2 Deposit	85.00
Ashmore Tues	45.00	Midwest District	180.00	9/2 20407	200.00
Brisbane Traditions	60.00	Mirrabooka Spanish Speaking	30.00	19/2 Deposit	30.00
Broadbeach Happy Hour Topic	189.00	Nedlands Breakfast	36.00	21/2 Deposit	120.00
Burleigh Heads Mon 7pm ID	90.00	Nedlands Hoy of Living	420.00	26/2 Deposit	200.00
Burleigh Heads Early Birds	667.90	Nedlands Womens	180.00	28/2 Central Service	120.00
Burleigh Heads Sat 3pm	90.00	Noranda Steps	97.50	28/2 Deposit	200.00
Burleigh Heads Wed E S	251.60	Northam	37.80	Total Unknown Deposits:	3,668.17
Burleigh Heads Sun 5.30	405.00	North Beach Womens	40.20	TOTAL ALL REGIONS:	60,779.20
Chirn Park/Labrador Thurs 8pm	90.00	Scarborough Encouragement	51.15	LIM - Australia Donations	140.00
Cleveland Tuesday Open ID	90.00	Subiaco BB	30.00	TOTAL LIM	140.00
Coomera GC S&T Thurs	183.15	Subiaco YP	30.00		
Coorparoo Day	992.70	Total Area A:	1,907.15		
Dulacca	12.00	Area B WR	WR/B		
Elanora Spirit of Freedom	92.10	Beaconsfield	230.05		
Forest Lake Steps	60.00	Beaconsfield Womens	60.00		
Greenslopes	80.00	Cloverdale	90.00		
Gumdale Wed Night	120.00	Fremantle Beginners	30.00		
Gumdale	70.00	Fremantle Serenity Group	30.00		
Helensvale Tues 8pm	60.00	Fremantle Thurs pm	20.00		
Isle of Capri Sat	99.10	Fremantle Unity	150.00		
Isle of Capri Thurs	206.00	Kelmscott Altered Attitude	57.00		
Kenmore Groups	30.00	Kwinana - Medina	30.00		
Kirra Hill Mon	60.00	Kwinana Town	55.00		
Kirra Hill Sun	111.00	Maddington New Beginnings	39.90		
Mermaid Beach Fri 5:30pm	28.50	Mandurah Steps	179.25		
Mt Gravatt Sun Night	180.00	Manjimup	120.00		
Mudgeeraba Wed Discussion	15.00	Mundijong	116.00		
Murwillumbah Tues 10am	100.00	Mundijong Fri Ch 6	92.00		
New Farm	495.00	Rockingham Discussion	180.00		
Oxley Station	150.00	Rockingham Peoples Group	132.00		
Paradise Point Fri 6pm	145.00	South Lakes	30.00		
Paradise Point Sun 5pm	120.00	Total Area B:	1,641.20		
Rule 62 Speakers Bulimba	100.00	Total Western Region:	3,548.35		
Slacks Creek	70.00	NORTHERN REGION	NR		
Southport Mon 12pm	43.45	Area A NR	NR/A		
Southport Mon Womens BB	75.80	Darwin Daily Reflections	210.00		
Southport Sat 10am	57.90	Darwin Harbour View	46.05		
Southport Sun BB 6pm	70.65	Darwin Tues BB	76.83		
Southport Sun 9am	24.30	Total Northern Region:	332.88		
Southport Tues 12pm	37.95				

Total \$60939.20

Thanks to all groups for your support

If your group would like to make a contribution to General Service Office, please make all cheques or money orders payable to: The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. If making a contribution via internet transfer, BSB 012006 Acc 009750529. Please make sure you write down in the memo what group the donation is from. If your group isn't listed correctly, please call General Service Office 02 9599 8866

From the Australian General Service Conference of 1974:

That the Australian Service Conference on behalf of all AA members in Australia pledges that we accept responsibility for the maintenance of a General Service Office and ask the groups in Australia to provide the necessary finance to carry out this task.

AA contacts in Australia

Central Region (SA)

Adelaide Room 203,
95 Currie St Adelaide 5000.
Bus (08) 8221 6888,
A/H (08) 8221 6999.

Eastern Region (NSW & ACT)

Sydney City Offices 1&2
Kings Cross Parking Station
9a Elizabeth Bay Road
Bus. (02) 9389 6333
24 hrs. (02) 9387 7788
PO Box 478, Bondi Junction
2022 .

Northern Sydney Kuringai
Community Groups Centre, cnr
Mona Vale & Rosedale Rds. St
Ives 2075 Bus (02) 9488-9805
24 hrs. (02) 9488 9820 PO
Box 151 St Ives 2075

Ballina 7 Martin St Ballina
(02) 6686-8599 PO Box 930
Ballina 2478

Blue Mountains & Western Sydney Ph 24 hrs 0428 160 457
PO Box 4141, Winmalee. NSW
2777

Byron Shire District
AA 12 Step Ph: 1800 423 431 or
0401 945 671 (24hrs)

Canberra Grant Cameron
Community Centre, 27 Mulley
Street, Holder, ACT (02) 6287
3020. PO Box 3898, Weston,
ACT 2611

Gosford William Court 6/12
William St. Gosford,
Phone (02) 4323 3890 PO Box 46
Gosford 2250.

Newcastle Greater Newcastle
CSO Room 9, Upstairs St Peters
Church Hall Lot 2
Rear 148 Denison St, Hamilton
24 hrs (02) 4964 1555.
PO Box 196, Jesmond 2299

Southern Highlands
(02) 8250 7318 www.aash.org.au

Wagga Wagga District
Phone 0423 557 750
PO Box 5098

Wagga Wagga South, NSW 2650
wagga.aagroup.org.au
Email: aawagga@gmail.com

Wollongong 114-116 Princes
Highway, Upstairs cnr. Elliott
Road, Fairymeadow. 2519.
Phone (02) 4285 6788

North Eastern Region (QLD)

Brisbane Annerley City Library
Annexe, 450 Ipswich Road,
Annerley. 4103.

12 Step: (07) 3255-9162
Office Tel (07) 3255-9962
PO Box 299, Annerley, D.C. 4103

Buddina Kawana Community
Centre 86 Undarra St., Buddina
24 hrs. (07) 5444 8616, PO Box
1018 Buddina QLD 4575

Cairns Badminton Center, 129
Mulgrave Rd. Cairns.

Email. aacso@aafnd.org
Phone (07) 4051-2872. PO Box
2089 Cairns CBD 4870

Gladstone 24 hrs. 0419 725 287

Gold Coast Community Centre
Lawson St Southport.
(07) 5591 2062 PO Box 2061
Southport 4215.

Hervey Bay Contact 0438 169
764 9am - 9pm

Mackay Contact (07) 4953 1742
Maryborough

9am - 9pm 0438 169 764

Rockhampton (07) 4927 4416

Townsville 1 Charters Towers
Road. 4810.

Phone (07) 4771 5411
Fax (07) 4771 6555 PO Box
1443, Townsville.

Southern Region (VIC & TAS)

Prahran 12 Step Office

24 hrs. (03) 9529 5948
www.aamelbourne.org.au
info@aamelbourne.org.au

Melbourne North/West Intergruop Phone 0419 610 025
Ballarat District

Phone 0429621594 24hr.
aread.org.au/districts/Ballarat-district
PO Box 1332 Bakery Hill 3354

Bendigo District

Phone 24 hours (03) 5435 3167
Website: www.aabendigo.org.au
PO Box 121, Golden Square, Vic
3555

Chapter Six Motor Group Service Office

PO Box 525 Kyabram Vic 3620
Ph 0428855027
www.chaptersixmotorcyclegroup.com

Geelong (03) 5229 1710.
PO Box 914, Geelong 3220

Mornington Peninsula District
1300 880 390

PO Box 379, Mornington Vic
3931

Southern Region Area B

Service Office (03) 5831-5532.
PO Box 232, Shepparton, 3632.

Hobart Room 18, 2nd Flr,
McDougall Building, Ellerslie
Road, Battery Point, Hobart.
Phone (03) 6234 8711. PO Box
317, Hobart 7001

Launceston Contact (03) 6334
7060. PO Box 350 Launceston
7250

Northern Region (NT)

Darwin Nightcliff Community
Centre, Bauhinia Street,
Nightcliff. NT 0810.
(08) 8948-5202. PO Box 40760
Casuarina 0811.

Alice Springs 24 hrs. phone(08)
8953 0802 (08) 8955 0031, (08)
8955 0628

Katherine Phone 0427 712 443.

Western Region (WA)

Perth Room 2, Claisebrook
Lotteries House 33 Moore St East
Perth 6004.

Phone (08) 9325 3566;
(08) 9325 3209.

Loners Internationalists (LIM) Australia

The Editor,
PO Box 16 Hivesville QLD 4612

General Service Office Of Alcoholics

Anonymous Australia

48 Firth Street, Arncliffe. 2205
Phone (02) 9599-8866.
email: gso@aa.org.au
Website: www.aa.org.au

