



FROM PIONEERS TO
80 YEARS

18-21 APRIL 2025, SYDNEY



National Convention

AA80: A celebration of resilience, redemption & the spirit of fellowship



AA AROUND AUSTRALIA
Special Edition

AANATCON2025.COM.AU



AA80 Presents...

The Story of AA's Australian Pioneers



One Show Only!

SYDNEY TOWN HALL | SATURDAY 19 APRIL | 10:00 AM

AA80 Presents

A fallen Hollywood starlet,
searching for a new beginning...

A group of unlikely allies,
united by hope...

Challenges, transformation, and a power
greater than them all...

Step back in time to the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia, where courage and connection lit the way in our post-war cities. A former silver-screen star, seeking refuge from a troubled past, arrives in search of a fresh start—but will she find the strength to hold on to her new way of life?

Amid the uncertainty, passionate pioneers come together, each bringing their own struggles, beliefs, and hopes for the future. Personalities collide, friendships are tested, and the road is anything but easy. Yet, through perseverance and a shared purpose, something extraordinary begins to take shape—something beyond any one person's will or ambition.

Was it destiny? Was it determination? Or was it the unseen force that seemed to guide them through every challenge?

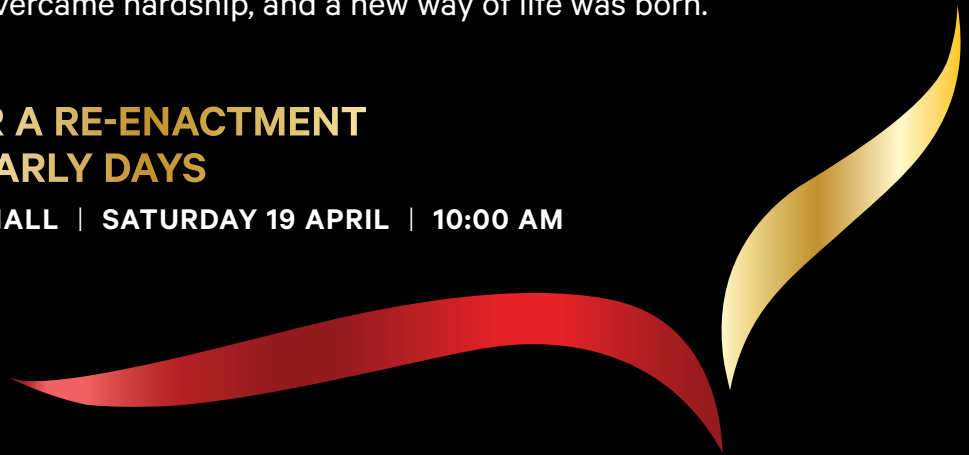
A story of resilience and renewal, of transformation and trust... and of a fellowship that has stood the test of time.

Will they find the unity they seek? Or will the past threaten to pull them apart?

Discover the untold journey behind one of the greatest movements in history — where hope overcame hardship, and a new way of life was born.

**JOIN US FOR A RE-ENACTMENT
OF THOSE EARLY DAYS**

SYDNEY TOWN HALL | SATURDAY 19 APRIL | 10:00 AM



Memorabilia

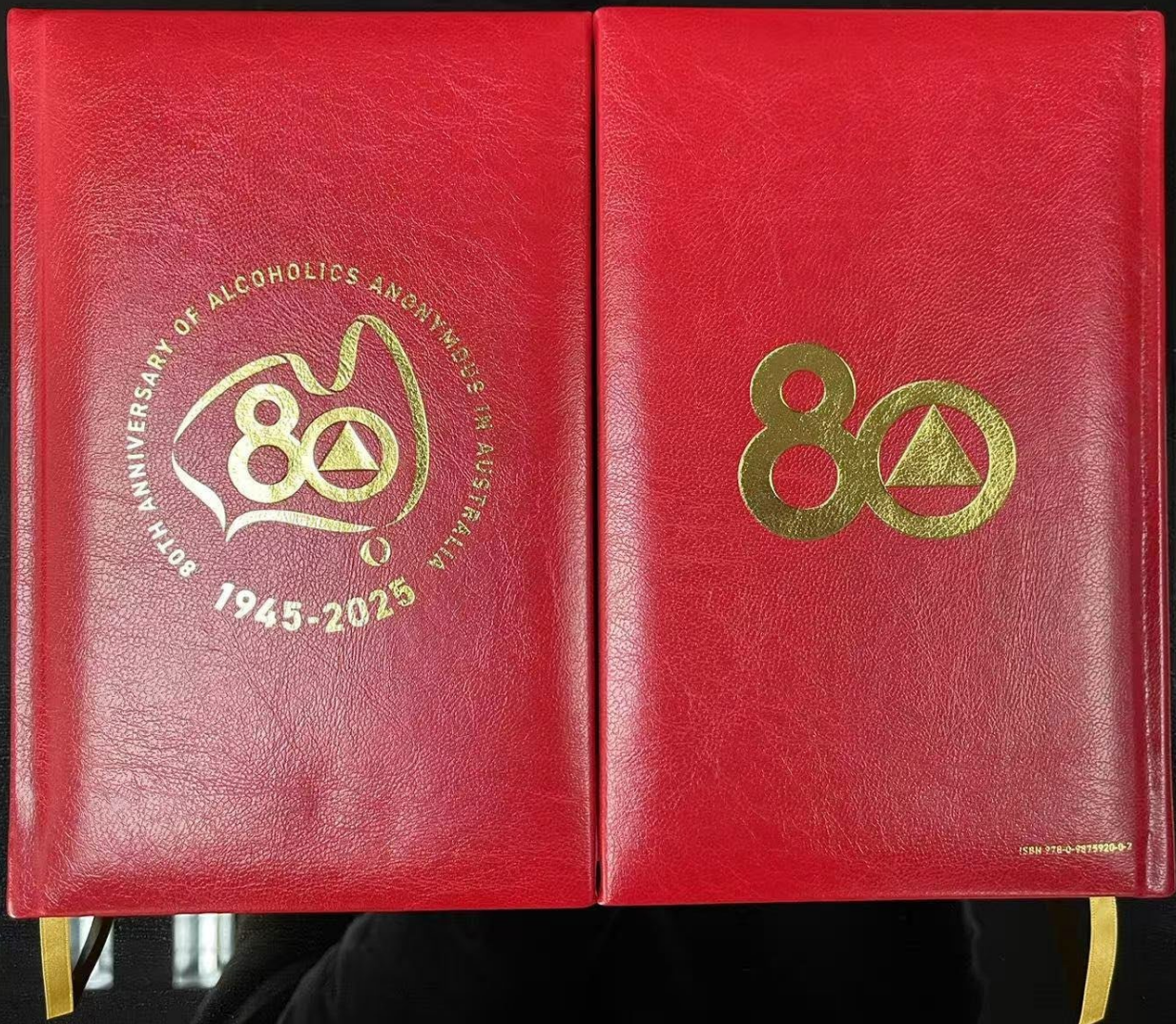
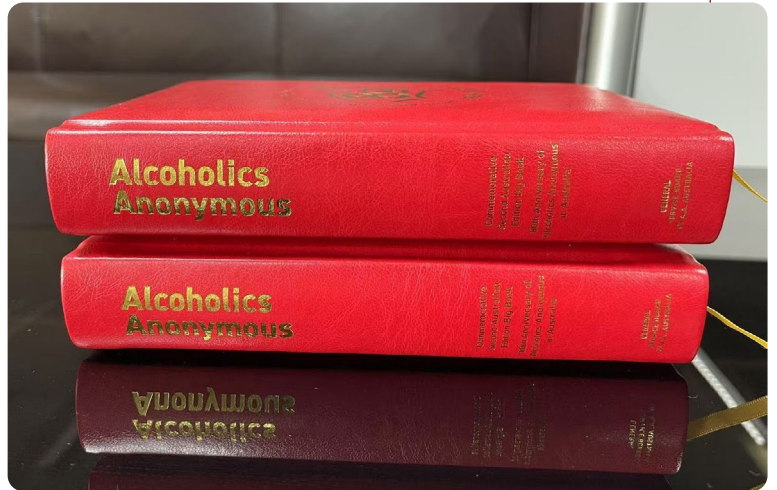
Limited Edition Leather Bound AA80 Big Book

To commemorate this once in a lifetime event the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia has commissioned a limited print run of the Second Edition of the Australian Big Book with special red leather covers.

These are a limited edition, with 350 hand numbered copies available for sale only.

You can pre-purchase your copy now at: aanatcon2025.com.au

You will be able to collect your Limited Edition commemorative Big Book at the AA80 National Convention.



Event Overview

Alcoholics Anonymous is turning...



The journey began in 1945...

...when one alcoholic reached out to another in the heart of Sydney, making us pioneers as the first country outside of North America to host AA Meetings.

Fast forward to today, and we've evolved into an incredibly vibrant, diverse and active national fellowship.

We're planning an epic event, and you're invited for the magic! Join us for the 80th Anniversary National Convention, right where it all began, in Sydney on April 18-21, with the awesome participation of Al-Anon and Alateen.

2025 AA NATIONAL CONVENTION 'From Pioneers to 80 Years'

Hosted in Sydney at the Sydney Town Hall and Sydney Hilton Hotel, the action packed 4 Day Program includes:

**Steps workshops | Special Interest Meetings | All Australian Guest Speakers
Australian History Presentation | Dinner dance | Harbour Cruise | Walking tour**

For more information about the event please check out our website: aanatcon2025.com.au and follow us on Facebook!

Walking Tour

Walk in Their Footsteps: A Self-Guided Tour of AA's Beginnings in Sydney

Step back in time and explore the early history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia with the special edition AA80 self-guided walking tour through Sydney's inner city. Follow in the footsteps of the pioneering members who helped bring AA to Australia 80 years ago, visiting the sites where they met, found hope, and laid the foundations of the Fellowship we know today.

See Darlinghurst Reception House, where some of Sydney's earliest AA members spent time before helping to establish the Fellowship. Their efforts were guided by key figures such as Archie McKinnon, Dr. Sylvester Minogue, and Father Thomas Dunlea, who played crucial roles in AA's early days in Australia.

In 1946, Don Whittington, a journalist, attended an early AA meeting and was struck by the remarkable new movement taking shape. Describing what he witnessed as "Sydney's Strangest Club," he was so moved that he offered to donate a large portion of his fee for the article. The meeting was held in a former pub, which had been renamed "Vianney House" by Father Tom Dunlea, and transformed into AA's first and only clubhouse in Australia.

Wander through the streets of Kings Cross, where early members gathered in cafés late into the night, discussing the Big Book and sharing their experience, strength, and hope. This is also the location of some of AA's earliest meeting places.

With each step, history comes to life—many of these buildings still stand as silent witnesses to the struggles and triumphs of those who came before us. This tour offers a rare opportunity to connect with our past, walk the same streets, and reflect on the enduring legacy of AA in Australia.

The AA80 Special Edition Self-Guided Walking Tour will be available at the AA80 Convention—don't miss this chance to experience a powerful journey through Sydney's AA history.



Darlinghurst Reception House

Registration options

Convention Tickets

Please note: Convention tickets do not include access to Special Events.

FULL WEEKEND

Access to every session across the full 4 day program **\$195**

Concessional rate (Concession card required) **\$165**

SINGLE DAY

Access as many sessions as you like in any single day **\$65 per day**

Concessional rate (Concession card required) **\$58.50**

ALATEEN

For Al-Anon Teenagers only **FREE**
(ticketing coming soon)

Special Event Tickets

DINNER DANCE

Hilton Sydney — Dinner, Dance & Band **\$175**

Saturday 19 April 2025, 7:00pm — 11:00pm

Featuring Brown Sugar, Sydney's best R&B and Soul band

TWILIGHT HARBOUR CRUISE

Cruise aboard the Jerry Bailey and take in the sights

Sunday 20 April 2025, 6:00pm — 10:00pm

Enjoy the best of Sydney Harbour, with a live band, good food and great company.

SOLD OUT

Accommodation

HILTON SYDNEY HOTEL

Book direct with Hilton Hotel Sydney — Quote Code **GGESE** for special rates.

Program Highlights

Sydney Town Hall: Main Auditorium

Friday 18 April

7:00pm — 9:00pm

Opening Ceremony

With Al-Anon and Alateen participation, including opening address from convention chairperson.

Saturday 19 April

10:00am — 12:00pm

Australian AA History presentation

Celebrating the founders and early members of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia

1:00pm — 2:30pm

Old-timers meeting

Including a celebration of our Australian founding members and all those who have kept the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous open for 80 years!

7:00pm — 11:00pm

Hilton Sydney — Dinner, Dance & Band

With Brown Sugar – Sydney's best R&B and Soul Band

Sunday 20 April

9:00am — 10:30am

Spiritual concepts

Australian members sharing their experience of a Higher Power.

2:00pm — 3:30pm

Speaker meeting

Australian members sharing their experience, strength and hope.

6:00pm — 10:00pm

Special Event — Twilight Harbour Cruise

Set sail on the spacious Jerry Bailey and take in the stunning sights of Sydney Harbour. Mingle with like minded folk, enjoy a live DJ, and savour a delightful menu!

Monday 21 April

10:30am — 12:30pm

Closing Ceremony

Including handover to the 2026 Host City.

FREE REGISTRATION

Useful Information

Looking for Sydney residents able to help out for the national convention over Easter.

The planning committee secretary would love to hear from local Sydneysiders prepared to accommodate (billet) interstate and overseas visitors to our convention in Sydney. On a sobernote, there is a 'buyer beware' consideration for this, i.e. there's no vetting process. But if you've got the room and you'd like to help out please email: aanatcon2025@aa.org.au

