



Alcoholics Anonymous  
Area C Eastern  
Region NSW  
Newcastle - Lower  
Hunter - Central Coast

## MINUTES OF AREA ASSEMBLY

Area C Web Site: [www.aa-area-c.org](http://www.aa-area-c.org)

Copies of all Area C Minutes available in Area C forum under heading: Area C (Central Coast, Lower Hunter and Newcastle)

Date: **11-10-2008**

Meeting Opened: **1.30 pm**

Attendance: **Jim K Delegate**

**James Q Chairperson**

**Jenni W Wamberal BBS  
GSR**

**Deddie H Gorokan BBS GSR**

**Michael H Kurri Kurri Steps**

**John C Alt Treasurer**

**John R Boomerang Breakfast  
Observer**

**Ian M Truth GSR**

**Harry Nelson Bay GSR**

**Corry TYAH GSR**

**Jeff J Observer.**

**Corium Archived**

Apologies: **Lenny S Cessnock**

Traditions Read By: **Accepted as Read**

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes of the previous month's meeting distributed and accepted as read.

Business Arising: **None**

Moved Accepted : **Ian M**

Seconded : **Jenni**

### CORRESPONDENCE Secretary & Delegate

INWARDS& Outwards:

[Box 459](#)

[Telstra account](#)

[Lim Australia](#)

[AA Around Australia](#)

I'm a student at Taree TAFE studying Community Services, and as part of my course I have to compile a directory of community services. I have collected most of the info I need on AA from your website, but if you could help me by answering a few quick questions I would really appreciate it.

1. Your office hours

2. Your fax number

Thanks very much in anticipation of your help

Sally

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Hi Valerie.

My Area assembly is on this Saturday and I am going to be asked what the situation is with the proposed meeting between Area E and Area C with the boards supervision.

I have the email trail that I can read out but was wondering if you could give me a quick heads up on progress so I can report to Area C.

Thanks and Regard

*Jim K*

Hi Jim,

Nothing to report yet. Will organise as soon as possible.

Best wishes  
Valerie

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Hi All,

**Advisory Action #016/2007: Conference resolved that the Conference Cost Equalisation Levy system remain unchanged but that the General Service Board produce a Guideline on how Areas can encourage groups to participate, seeking input on the Guideline from strongly supported Areas.**

There seems to be some difficulty in obtaining information to assist in putting this Guideline together. At the July Board meeting I agreed to take the project over. Due to pressure of work I have been unable to give it any attention until now. However, I believe that this guideline will become an extremely important tool for future Area Committees, and I would like feedback from as many of you as possible, so that I can bring at least a rough draft to Conference.

I believe 'participate' falls into two categories: physical and financial.

Many Areas report dwindling numbers participating in Areas activities and many struggle to raise the required funds to send their delegate to Conference.

Basically, if those of you that feel you are strongly supported could just answer a couple of questions, it will be a start?

#### Physical

1. What do you think are key factors in getting groups to participate in Area activities?
2. What do you think are key factors in groups not participating?

#### Financial

1. Why do you think groups give generously to Area?
2. What do you think are the factors that make groups decide not to contribute to Area?

Please feel free to make any other suggestions.

Input from those Areas that are struggling is also very important and if you can think of anything that may be useful, please let me know.

I am pleased to report that we will almost have a full house at Conference this year, with only Area A, Southern Region not attending. Area F Eastern Region has re-formed and will have a delegate (Kim) there for the first time in several years.

Apologies for the delay in getting the Conference folders out. Unfortunately we have just been in an unusually busy period lately and have been short staffed over the last couple of weeks due to Tony being on holidays and not helped by a delayed visit from the auditors! He was due back today but we received a telephone call to say that he was hospitalised last night due to an asthma attack. Your patience is appreciated!

Best wishes  
Valerie

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Hi Jim,

We can refund your \$200 donated for the National Forum.  
Please tell me who to make the cheque out to and where to send it, or if you want a direct deposit?

Best wishes  
Lloyd

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hi there Jim I'm looking for the bsb number for AA and account number to be able to deposit donations,many

thanks,Les S  
Medowie.

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Hi Susan, Mike, Jim,

I do not appear to have received a flight booking request from you.

Need to have this urgently now.

Best wishes  
Valerie

Hi Valerie

I will catch the train down it only costs me \$2.50 and goes right to the hotel could use some taxi vouchers though. But if you like you can fly me to Perth and back after the conference. (Joke)

Regards

Jim

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Hi Lloyd

I was wondering if you could let me know what Topics that were proposed to be submitted got voted on to be put into action.

The reason I ask this is I was wondering if the proposed topic to split Treatment / Correctional Facilities was passed as a topic to be submitted.

If it was in your report on the Forum you might like to point out the down the line consequences of this topic if it got passed at conference.

1. Treatment as the senior partner in this (more treatment facilities by a 10 to 1 Ratio at minimum) would keep the National Coordinators position and the Forum.
2. More likely go back to 1 National Coordinator and one Forum PI/CPC.

Regards

*Jim K*

Delegate Area C Eastern Region Panel #48

Hi Jim,

If you look at the whiteboard summaries that are on the service website you will see what was agreed on the last day. There was some discussion about specific topics, but it went round in circles, and to get things finished the final recommendation (#4) ended up as 'Develop T&CF Topics for 2009 Conference.' It is up to individual Areas to develop the Topics themselves. As you say there is a lot to consider on that issue. I will be discussing it in my Report, but haven't started on that yet. You will be kept posted.

All the best

Lloyd

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Hi Tim

As promised a copy of my delegates excel file.

Regards **Jim K** Delegate Area C Eastern Region Panel #48

Hi Jim,

Thanks for that, it will be handy.

I was in full agreement with what you were saying about the upside down triangle on Saturday, we are taking too much away from group responsibility. See you in 6 weeks.

Regards,

Tim

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Dear Sir/Madam

I have lived with a recovering alcoholic for a few years and still do not understand why he now goes to 3 meetings a week. He used to go once and has been sober for 15 years.

I feel I live the life of a recovering alcoholic as his life is ruled by meetings, in a way he is still controlled by alcohol.

I cannot go to al-anon as his ex goes there and I don't want to hear about their time together as I am in a small country town.

I think that I alcoholic and non alcoholic don't mix in relationships

Where do I go for help. I feel this is controlling my life as I am home alone and I don't have the problem

Thanks

Lynne

Hi Lynne

My name is Jim and I am an Alcoholic, If you want help getting sober AA can help you it has no opinion on any other issues.

So from here on its is Jims opinion based on the minimum information you have supplied.

First Al-anon is where you should be 0249693889 is the Newcastle Office number and that office covers a lot of country NSW so they will be able to offer you the best advice.

My knowledge of Al-anon tells me it is a recovery based programme and you talk about recovery not about your Alcoholic.

Meetings is one part of a 3 part programme and is very important in keeping an Alcoholic centered in the saying once an Alcoholic always an Alcoholic. Alcoholism is a Disease that will convince you that don't have the Disease and that is fatal.

There is nothing to stop Alcoholics and Non Alcoholics having successfully marriages. We have a set of 12 Traditions that help us live together all successfully marriages in AA live by them. By changing some words you can make them work in all relationships.

*1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. Unity.*

*Our relationships welfare should come first; personal relationships depends upon our relationships Unity. (just a couple of examples the rest is up to you 2)*

*2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.*

*3. The only requirement for A.A. Membership is a desire to stop drinking.*

*4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. As a whole.*

*I should be autonomous except in matters affecting our relationship as a whole.*

*5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

*6. An A.A. Group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. Name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

7. *Every A.A. Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*
8. *Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.*
9. *A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.*
10. *Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. Name ought never be drawn into public controversy.*
11. *Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.*
12. *Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.*

Hope this helps I am not a marriage counselor or have any useful knowledge in anything other than how to help alkie.

Regards

jim

Dear Jim

Thank you for your reply.

Even though I work in medical, I think this is one area I will struggle to understand, that in general there is never a day that alcoholics can forget that is what they are. Anyone involved is also affected by the person's disease.

My ex-husband was an insulin diabetic and it was the same thing (different umbrella) but still a disease that the whole family suffers as a result. This is similar as there is no cure and the personality traits seem to be the same. Both seem to be bitter and resentful of their disease.

I will contact Al-Anon or leave him.

Thanks again

Lynne

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This email was sent to Newcastle AA I forwarded it to National Office.

Hi Valerie

I could answer this but I thought it might be:

1. Better for the National Office to decide if to answer this.

2. To decide if an Alkie or a Class A Trustee would be better answering this.

3. To decide if a Woman or a male would be better to answer this.

I would like to be Cc on the Answer if you think that appropriate thanks.

Regards

*Jim K*

Delegate Area C Eastern Region Panel #48

Hello

My name is Kristen Hadden. I have just gone to the AA website as a matter of interest. I don't have an alcohol problem, but let me say that if I did, I would not consider joining AA because of the use of gender-biased language in some, not all, but some material. It is blatantly apparent from reading some literature that AA was set up by men, not only for men, but for men to the exclusion of women. For the uninitiated gender biased language is that which completely excludes women and assumes the masculine is the subject of all which is said. For example the use of "his" instead of "his/hers" or "man kind" instead of "human kind" or the big one that I take issue with - the assumption that God is a man. I know that my God is female, as am I. It may seem pedantic or trivial that I take issue with this, however, it is an undeniable fact that gender-biased writing is but only evidence of and reflection of an Author/organisation's attitude toward women. For example, if I truly believed (and I do) that God could be either man or woman, I would refer to him/her as "him/her"; or if I truly acknowledged that both men and women could have an alcohol problem I would refer to it as "his/her" problem. It is proposed here, that AA has an undercurrent of inequality within the organisation, and that that is reflected in the use of language. I am concerned and offended that the exclusion of 1/2 of the population of the world in some AA literature could perpetuate the exclusion of women not only from existence it would seem, but also from inclusion in seeking help from AA.

Thanks for your time.

Kris

Jim,  
For your info.....

Hello Kris,  
Thanks for your email.  
We note your opinion on this matter.

AA is inclusive to all. The only requirement for membership to AA is for a person to have a desire to stop drinking.

AA retains, verbatim, many of its Fellowship's original writings.  
Certainly, there is a process in place and available to alter AA literature, if the collective group conscience of AA's membership so chooses.

AA doesn't take statistics of its membership but anecdotal evidence suggests that the percentage of women members of AA has increased to about 40% of its total, in recent years. Also in recent times, AA literature has been produced which is particularly addressed to women who may be seeking help to deal with an alcohol problem.

With best wishes,

Tony  
National Office of AA Australia

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Hi Valerie, John and Wayne.

I was at the T&CF forum at the weekend and was talking to Wayne and he asked me to email the three of you asking how things are going with your approach to Area E and the Stars.

What got us talking was, John Star telling the Forum that Tony had approached him as he should when working by the Service Structure to organize AA working in a youth correctional facility on the Central Coast, this was after informing the Forum that he was from Area E that compromised some Sydney suburbs and the Central Coast.

I did not stand up and contradict him or approach him in anyway as I had agreed to the Board handling it, so as asked above what is happening, Johns talk was recorded if you want to check the validity of my statements.

Regards

*Jim K*

Delegate Area C Eastern Region Panel #48

Good question Jim,

Will discuss with Valerie on Thursday at the Mgt meeting.

Cheers

John Loty

Hi Jim,

The agreement was that we would organise a meeting with representatives of Area C and Area E and that this meeting would be held on the Central Coast. John, Wayne and I would also attend this meeting. It has yet to be organised. We had hoped to discuss with Howard from Area E at the last Management Group meeting, but he was not available to attend. Will put on the agenda for this Thursday's meeting. After the meeting on the Central Coast, I had 5 weekends committed and I am currently overwhelmed with work for Conference, etc. I expect to be available for the weekend of **Saturday 11th or Sunday 12th**. Is this OK with everyone? If so, we will see if reps from Area E can come on that date. Jim, if we can get general agreement, can you liaise with the Gosford CSO to see if we could use their premises?

I have checked with Tony about the contact he made with John Starr. Some time ago a pastor who dealt with the Kariong (Central Coast) Juvenile Detention Centre called here - interested in setting up an AA meeting. Because the pastor mentioned that the "clients" at the centre typically went through the Courts up there, Tony felt that John, with his local knowledge would be best suited to contact to call the pastor for this purpose. He passed the contact details onto John and we understand that there has been a very satisfactory outcome for the pastor and for AA.

This contact was, in no way, some sort of sign of National Office championing the cause of Central Coast groups belonging to Area E.

Tony had already also mentioned to me that he attended one session of the weekend's T&CF Forum. Tony believes that some of John Starr's comments were inaccurate and misleading. We have ordered CDs so that these can be highlighted.

I believe that if we cannot achieve an amicable resolution to this we probably need to refer the matter to Conference. This is not a simple case of a group choosing to belong to another Area. It is a blatant attempt to change the boundaries set by Conference, without consultation with anyone.

Best wishes

Valerie

Hi Valerie

I have the CDs here is the CD number and time into that CD and what is said between those times.

Hoppe it helps.

CD 3 – 57.16 to 57.39

I am part of the Area E area now and I am PI Officer for the Area and I'm in the if you want a job in AA just go to a meeting and the DCM for the District so that's the way it is and its been encouraging that where a little different in this particular Area because we cover the whole of the North part of Sydney and the Central Coast .

Regards

Jim

Hi all,

Like Val, I too am inundated with work – of my employer – except in my case it is my business clients and other commitments that I have in addition to my AA responsibilities.

Yes I can go to Gosford on either the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> but as I recall it there was some suggestion that John Rivers had some influence with John Starr – so perhaps that should be tried as well.

Cheers

John Loty

Hello all,

11th is OK with me, 12th if pushed.

Howard and John Rivers the minimum for the meeting with more members from area E if possible. Jim from area C and some others if possible. Not forgetting the Starrs.

Regards

Wayne

Hi Valerie

So what day do you want me to ask if we can use the Central Coast Office 11-10-2008 or the 12-10-2008 Area C has an Area Assembly on the 11th at the same place as you, Wayne and John attended the last assembly at, so 12th would suite me more.

Regards

Jim King

Hi Jim,

We'll have to go back to the drawing board on this one. I hadn't realised it is the NEWYPAA weekend. John is committed the weekend after that. Also we didn't see Howard today so wasn't able to talk to him. We'll have to come up with another date convenient to everyone. Let me have a think about it and get back to you early next week.

Best wishes

Valerie

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Hi,

I am inquiring about advice on AA meetings. I am a 41 year old male with a drinking problem over the last 20 years. I have looked at your website, and would ask for you advice. Meetings at Warners Bay would suit me best but I am unsure if I should attend open or closed meetings, and how I organise this.

Maybe I need to call and discuss my issues first.

Any advice would be appreciated

Regards

Jamie

Hi Jamie

If you ring this number 24 hours a day you get to talk to someone 49641555 who will help you figure this out.

Regards

Jim

Thankyou I will do that

Jamie

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Hi Vince & Lloyd

I think the best thing to do about the bid for the regional forum is to put you in touch with the person that run the last one so you can get information on that one.

Lloyd

Can you give Vince a copy of the Programme for the Regional Forum and share the numbers that the venue needed to be capable of holding and any other information you think he will need as the person looking at our ability to run next years Forum.

Thanks

Jim

Hi Vince and Jim,

I've attached the programs from the last Regional Forum, hosted by Area H in July 2008, and also the previous one at Muswellbrook in 2006, for your information.

We had 52 registrations with maybe a few more people than that in the main hall at times. We also split into two groups, using another room for some workshops. Apart from organising the program, the main work was preparing and supplying food for morning and afternoon teas and lunch on the Saturday (which we included with the registration) and for a dinner we put on on the Saturday evening (for an additional cost).

The only other thing I should mention is that we had several people from Area B (based on Canberra) at the last Forum and they let it be known through their Delegate (Suzie D.) that they would probably put up a bid to host the Regional Forum in 2009. Nothing to stop you doing the same, but you might like to talk to them about it.

Best wishes

Lloyd Fell

Panel 48 Delegate Area H

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Hi All,

A written report on what's happening in your Area (electronic Word document version preferably) is required for inclusion in the Conference folder.

Please send report to me by no later than Friday 12th September. Reports received after that date will not be included in the folder.

Also, reminding you that bids for the 2010 National T& CF Forum, 2011 National PI&CPC Forum and 2012 National Convention will be heard at Conference. Delegates for Area A Eastern Region and Areas A and B Western Region will confirm their tentative bids made last year to host the 2010 and 2011 National Conventions respectively.

Conference topics will be sent out early next week, following the meeting of the Conference Agenda Committee this Saturday.

Best wishes  
Valerie

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Hi Jim,

The Conference Agenda Committee have invited you to make the following presentation at the Delegates Meeting at Conference this year. Please advise if you accept this invitation.

#### **VOTING PROCEDURES**

Best wishes  
Valerie

**Business Arising: None**

**Moved Accepted : Ian M**

**Seconded : jenni**

#### **AREA CHAIR REPORT:**

Chairman's report October 2008-10-10

Last month myself, Lenny S from Cessnock Living Sober Group and Jim K from Turning Point Group attended the inaugural National Treatment and Correctional Facilities (T&CF) Forum in Sydney. This forum brought together representatives from 15 of the 21 Areas across Australia to report on their work in T&CF and to attempt to find ways to help Areas and their members better do this work.

I presented a report on work we are doing in this Area in treatment facilities (admittedly my report was somewhat limited and omitted sever treatment facilities on the coalfields as well as the Central Coast, as I had no information relating to this work at the time it was prepared.) Lenny S also presented a report on the Area's work in Gaols (i.e. Cessnock Gaol).

There was considerable discussion on the Saturday regarding ways of improving carrying the message into T&CF, much of it contentious. There were strong arguments to separate T&CF into two portfolios based on the differing nature and challenges carrying the message into gaols has compared to working with treatment facilities. There was also a lot of discussion about the ways AA could influence the authorities managing gaols to improve our access by reducing the barriers members have in gaining clearances to attend goals. A great deal of the time allocated for the Saturday workshops focussed on goals, with only a small amount of discussion and consideration about the needs of Treatment facilities being possible due to a few members prosecuting their own agendas at the expense of more balanced and equitable discussions. We did not stay for the final Sunday session which intended to finalise some recommendations and suggestions for further action, and I have not been informed or made aware of what these were at this point in time.

I found the Forum beneficial in that we were able to see the amount and type of work being carried out in TC&F by areas from all over the country. From the reports provided by these other areas, Area C is actually positioned very well in terms of the amount of work we are able to do in TC&F. Overall our efforts compared very favourably with other areas. I was also somewhat concerned by the general ignorance displayed by those attending of the resources we have to support and inform our work in TC&F, especially in regards to the Big Book, which has three chapters which directly address carrying the message into the community (i.e. Working With Others, To Employers and A Vision For You. I was also concerned by the seeming lack of understanding of or concern for the Traditions and their central importance in governing the way we carry out service work in our communities. I am happy to report that at least our Area was willing to bring these shortcomings to the attention of the other attendees and promote the practice of principles before personalities during the workshops and discussions.

The Area also held a Trivial Night and Auction last fortnight. While attendance was lower than hoped for (around 20 odd) the night was a great success and we raised about \$300 for the Area. We also had a really fun night. If you didn't go, you missed out.

Yours in fellowship,  
James Q  
Area C Chairman

**Business Arising: None**

**Moved Accepted : Jenni**

**Seconded : Corry**

**Area Delegates Report:**

I have toured the most of the Greater Newcastle District Groups and a couple of Central Coast Groups since the last assembly. The numbers in groups is picking up since Spring has bloomed, Wallsend Group has closed due to lack of support. I have include my incoming and outgoing correspondence with the Secretaries Report. The trivia night was down in numbers due to clashing with football semis but was a great night, thanks to the Central Coast people who attended.

Thanks yours in Service  
Jim K

**Business Arising: None**

**Moved Accepted : Ian M**

**Seconded : Corry**

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## **AREA C - Treasurers Report as at 10/10/2008**

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<b>Opening Balances:</b>	Achiever Passbook	\$1000.00
	Cheque Book	\$3002.41

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### **Incoming Money:**

#### **Donations:**

- |                                       |  |          |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------|
| 1. Area C Meeting Donations (July)    |  | \$ 30.90 |
| 2. Newcastle City Steps Donation (72) |  | \$ 95.00 |
| 3. Tarro Big Book Study Donation (73) |  | \$ 80.00 |
| 4. Tarro Big Book Study Donation (74) |  | \$100.00 |
| 5. Tarro Young at Heart Donation (75) |  | \$200.00 |



## **T&CF Report.**

Myself, Lenny and James attended the National T&CF Forum, Lenny S has been elected the National T&CF Coordinator and we wish him well, Lenny and I had a talk this week and we think it would be a good idea for Area C to bid for the Eastern Region Forum this year and include regional PI & T&CF meetings as part of that forum.

Lloyds report on the Forum gives a good outline of what happened so I have included that in this report.

Thanks yours in Service

Jim K

## **Lloyd F National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Coordinator.**

The 72 members from 14 service Areas across Australia who attended the first ever National T&CF Forum in Sydney on the 19th to 21st of September were very enthusiastic and the presentations and workshops were extremely positive.

We have a new National Coordinator (Lenny S.) and an Alternate (Brian S.) to continue the work, a host planning team for the next Forum in Brisbane in 2010, and a list of things to be done to make carrying the message in jails, hospitals and other institutions continue to grow and develop.

If you want to see what was on the whiteboards from the workshops, thanks to Ken, there are three files attached here (Challenges, Toolkit, Recommendations). Please don't take these as a final Forum Report. Watch this site for more information about what happened and where we go from here.

Heartfelt thanks from the hosts in Eastern Region to all those who attended, especially the people from interstate who made this a truly national event.

We will receive a check shortly for our \$200 seed money refund.

## **Lorna House.**

I have attended twice since last assembly:

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

5 Alkies.

3 men 2 women.

2nd Meeting

7 Alkies

4 men 3 women

I use is AA for you and go through the questions then talk about the physical craving and the mental obsession and how they affected me, then I tell them parts of my story, what an ID AA meeting format is an tell them the different types of AA meetings, and then questions.

## **Lingard Hospital Report 11/10/08**

We have continued to visit Lingard Hospital on the first Tuesday of the month to share our experience, strength and hope and provide some information to patients about alcoholism and AA. Attendance has varied from none to 5 or 6. Our last visit was Tuesday just gone, (8<sup>th</sup> October). This will be our last visit to Lingard in this form as we have concluded negotiation with the staff at the Woodlands Ward of Lingard Hospital to hold a weekly one hour ID meeting which will begin in the next few weeks. This meeting will be held on Sundays 2.30pm to 3.30pm. The purpose of this

meeting will be to carry the message and give the patients with alcohol issues an opportunity to share their drinking story and gain some experience of what AA offers. This meeting will be facilitated by AA members. Please note that this meeting is for inpatients of the Woodlands Ward only, and AA members can only attend by contacting the Lingard Hospital Coordinator (i.e. me) and arranging to attend. We have also assured the staff that any AA member attending will not comment in any way on the Hospital's treatment programs concerning alcohol. These are the hospital's conditions and we have agreed to abide by them, under Tradition 10. Remember, our only goal is to be helpful. Any members who would like to attend and assist in facilitating the meeting should contact me on 0421 128 924 so I can arrange a roster.

Yours in service,  
James Q  
Lingard Hospital Coordinator

### **Kirkwood House.**

every second Monday. Michael from kurri steps & Vince Dudgeon. average of 8 prospects attend. 6 male & 2 female. 5 alcohol is their problem & 3 drugs.

### **Lakeview Lodge**

Lindsay from S B B S & Vince Dudgeon SBBS & Freedom. average of 8 people attend 6 male 2 female. 5 alcohol is their problem & 3 drugs. Format varies from suggestions for Newcomers to 2 members sharing their stories to open forum. All formats are well received. Regards Vince Dudgeon SBBS/Freedom.

## **Cessnock Gaol Meetings – August 2008**

<b>Minimum Security</b>	<b>Protection Wing</b>
<p><b>1/9/08</b> Members – Brian – Cessnock Steps                   Lenny - Cessnock Living Sober Inmates – 7</p>	<p><b>1/9/08</b> Members – Cherie S – Cessnock Living Sober                   - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps                   - Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober Inmates – 6</p>
<p><b>8/9/08</b> Members – Russ C – Terrigal Beach                   Eric L – Terrigal Beach                   Geoff – Terrigal Beach Inmates – 4</p>	<p><b>8/9/08</b> Members – Cherie S                   Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps                   Lenny S - Cessnock Living Sober Inmates - 5</p>
<p><b>15/9/08</b> Members – Ian – Rutherford                   Cheryl - Branxton Inmates – 5</p>	<p><b>15/9/08</b> Members – Cherie S – Cessnock Living Sober                   - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps                   - Lenny – Cessnock Living Sober Inmates - 5</p>
<p><b>22/9/08</b> – John R – Gosford Kookaburra Group                   Richard – Terrigal Beach                   Eric – Terrigal Beach                   David – Gosford Kookaburra Group Inmates – 5</p>	<p><b>22/9/08</b> - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps                   - Jim K – Turning Point Inmates – 5</p>
<p><b>29/9/08</b> – Jim K – Turning Point                   - Ian M - Rutherford</p>	

<p><b>Maximum Security</b></p> <p><b>1/9/08</b>  Members – Cherie S – Cessnock Living Sober  - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps  - Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober  Inmates – 11</p> <p><b>8/9/08</b>  Members – Cherie S  Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps  Lenny S - Cessnock Living Sober  Inmates - 9</p> <p><b>15/9/08</b>  Members – Cherie S – Cessnock Living Sober  - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps  - Lenny – Cessnock Steps  Inmates - 10</p> <p><b>22/9/08</b> - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps  - Jim K – Turning Point  Inmates – 7</p> <p><b>29/9/08</b> – Cherie S – Cessnock Living Sober  - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps  - Yvonne – Cessnock Steps  Inmates - 9</p>	<p><b>29/9/08</b> – Cherie S – Cessnock Living Sober  - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps  - Yvonne – Cessnock Living Sober  Inmates - 0</p> <p><b>Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober  Gaal Roster Co-ordinato</b></p>
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**INSTITUTIONS 12 STEP OPPORTUNITIES**

All members of AA are requested to pass the message on to all other members as to Service Work. At the moment there is a very small number of members in service work.

The Area is requesting that members who are willing to do service work in Institutions e.g.

**Kirkwood House, Lakeview Lodge, here are the following requirements:**

Two (2) years sobriety to attend Kirkwood and Lakeview on your own & Six (6) Months sobriety to assist in the company of a person of 2 years sobriety or more.

**Kirkwood House** is attended every second Monday from 1.30-2.30 pm

**Lakeview** is every Thursday from 10.00-11.00 am and every Sunday 4.00-5.00 pm

**Any further information please contact:**

**Kevin S - Lenny 0438299320**

Thank you for your consideration.

**Business Arising: None**

**Moved Accepted : Corry**

**Seconded : Debbie**

## **RALLY COMMITTEE REPORT :**

**Rally proceeding to plan.**

**Business Arising: None**

**Moved Accepted : Debbie**

**Seconded : cORRY**

## **EVENTS & WORKSHOP COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Business Arising: No Report**

**Moved Accepted :**

**Seconded :**

## **PI COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Due to other commitments I have not had time to follow up some work in progress that I was going to report to this assembly hopefully I will have the time this next 3 months to finish that work and report next assembly.

Thanks yours in Service

Jim K

**Business Arising: None**

**Moved Accepted : Ian m**

**Seconded : Jenni**

## **COURTS PROGRAMME :**

<b>Newcastle</b>	
<b>Name of AA Person in Attendance</b>	Vince D
<b>Name of Attending judge</b>	Monahan, Mis Trussott
<b>Number of Referrals</b>	4
<b>Comments or how referred by Judge or whoever</b>	
<b>Magistrate</b>	1
<b>Solicitor</b>	2
<b>Aboriginal support person</b>	
<b>Self</b>	1
<b>Raymond Terrace</b>	
<b>Name of AA Person in Attendance</b>	Tom M
<b>Name of Attending judge</b>	Col Elliot,
<b>Number of Referrals</b>	1
<b>Comments or how referred by Judge or whoever</b>	
<b>Magistrate</b>	
<b>Solicitor</b>	1
<b>Aboriginal support person</b>	
<b>Self</b>	



that up to two people could be invited to attend.

For - 4 Against – 1 Abstained – 4 Carried

**TOPIC NO: 003/2008**

For a small blank space to be provided on the face or rear of every pamphlet to allow groups or CSOs to stamp the local contact details on without having to overstamp printed material.( this is already provided on some pamphlets, others have comparatively large blank areas that can be used for this purpose, all I'm asking for is consistency) the amount of space required would be at most 8cm x 4cm

For - 4 Against – 3 Abstained – 1 Carried

**TOPIC NO: 004/2008**

For all pamphlets that are included in the Sponsors Wallets to be printed on non glossy paper.(we also include "a message to teenagers" in ours)

For - 8 Against – 0 Abstained – 0 Carried

**TOPIC NO: 005/2008**

A.A. At A Glance. in the section that reads:

*How A.A. Is Supported*

*Over the years, Alcoholics Anonymous has affirmed and strengthened a tradition of being fully self-supporting and of neither seeking nor accepting contributions from non-members. Within the Fellowship, the amount that may be contributed by any individual member is limited to \$2,000 a year.*

That the sentence that reads: "Within the Fellowship, the amount that may be contributed by any individual member is limited to \$2,000 a year" Be deleted.

For - 6 Against - 0 Abstained – 2 Carried

**TOPIC NO: 007/2008**

Include a glossary of terms in the Big Book

For - 0 Against - 8 Abstained – 0 Defeated

**TOPIC NO: 008/2008**

We propose AA conduct a nationwide survey to assess exactly how effective we are in carrying AA's message of recovery from alcoholism through the teaching and practice of the 12 Steps as outlined in our book "Alcoholics Anonymous".

For - 0 Against - 6 Abstained – 0 Defeated

**TOPIC NO: 009/2008**

That Conference formally acknowledges the 2008 National Indigenous AA Convention.

No Opinion

**TOPIC NO: 010/2008**

Resubmit from General Service Conference 2006 re bidding process for National Indigenous AA Convention.

"That Conference recommends that Areas/Districts bid annually at the Annual Australian General Service Conference to host a National Indigenous Convention in their Area."

For - 2 Against - 4 Abstained – 2 Defeated

**TOPIC NO: 011/2008**

That a working party be established by the General Service Board and the National Office of AA, to examine the best way to develop a National AA Indigenous Central Service Office, that is consistent with the principles of Service as outlined in the General Service Manual (Australia)

For - 0 Against - 7 Abstained – 1 Defeated

**TOPIC: 012/2008**

Proposal for national office to write, print and distribute a flyer or letter for treasurers to take to banks when opening bank accounts for AA business.

For - 1 Against - 3 Abstained – 4 Defeated

**TOPIC NO: 013/2008**

That the two National Coordinators for T&CF and PI&CPC be paid as part-time positions.

For - 8 Against - 0 Abstained – 0 Carried

**TOPIC NO: 014/2008**

Is it possible that the pamphlet ‘A Message to Teenagers’ be updated? We realise it is a New York publication.

For - 8 Against - 0 Abstained – 0 Carried

**TOPIC: 015/2008**

Conference to look at reproducing/producing literature that is suitable for the culturally diverse population of Australia. For example – Message to Teenagers is directed towards the Anglo Saxon. i.e. Schools and Prisons.

For - 0 Against - 7 Abstained – 1 Defeated

**TOPIC: 016/2008**

Central Office of Victoria to be put back on the National AA website.

For - 3 Against - 0 Abstained – 5 Carried

**TOPIC 017/2008**

The National Office of Alcoholics Anonymous (NOAA) and the General Service Board (GSB) issue a short-term contract for an individual or group of people to collate the combined experience of the Fellowship in Australia in regard to Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional Community (PI&CPC). This information could then be packaged into a comprehensive PI&CPC Kit that would be available for Groups, Districts and Areas for use as a consistent base for carrying our important ‘primary purpose’ to the professional community and the general public.

For - 0 Against - 8 Abstained – 0 Defeated

**TOPIC NO: 018/2008**

That National Conventions incorporate a Service Workshop in their programs.

For - 8 Against - 0 Abstained – 0 Carried

**TOPIC NO: 019/2008**

The General Service Board recommends to Conference that the following paragraphs be added to the National Convention Guidelines:

For - 7 Against - 0 Abstained – 1 Carried

**TOPIC NO: 020/2008**

The General Service Board recommends to Conference that the following paragraph be added to the National Convention Guidelines:

The Host Planning Committee is encouraged, in consultation with our International Delegates, to consider inviting an indigenous member from a developing country within the Asia/Oceania zone, to attend our National Convention.

Funding would come from the International Sponsorship Fund, so there would be no financial burden on the Host Planning Committee.

For - 0 Against - 7 Abstained – 1 Defeated

**TOPIC: 021/2008**

The General Service Board recommends to Conference that the sum of \$2000 be donated to assist with the running costs of the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat.

For - 8 Against - 0 Abstained – 0 Carried

**TOPIC: 022/2008**

The General Service Board recommends to Conference that all information contained in non-specific pamphlets for professionals be condensed into one small booklet. Information contained in the out-of-stock and cumbersome Fact File could be included in this booklet.

For - 8 Against - 0 Abstained – 0 Carried

**NEWSLETTERS, CATALOGUES, ETC (Available to all members on asking)**

- Caring & Sharing Tape Catalogue/Floppy Disc
- AA Around Australia (September 2003 edition onwards)
- Map of Area borders.

Meeting Closed in Harmony, Unity and Good AA Fellowship with the Serenity Prayer at:

**NEXT MEETING: 19/4/08 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm Tarro Community Hall Northern Avenue**

**Area Secretary** < [secretary@aa-area-c.org](mailto:secretary@aa-area-c.org)

**E-mail:** **PI/CPC** < [pi@aa-area-c.org](mailto:pi@aa-area-c.org)

**Literature email this address to get an electronic price list and electronic order form:** < [literature@aa-area-c.org](mailto:literature@aa-area-c.org)

**POSTAL ADDRESS:** PO Box 196 JESMOND 2299

**Phone:** 49641555

**Web Address:** [www.aa-area-c.org](http://www.aa-area-c.org)

**Bank Name:** Newcastle Permanent building Society

**Account Name:** Alcoholics Anonymous

**Donate to Area C:** **BSB:** 650-000

**Account Number:** 960962709

**Have Group Name or initials Added:** Stockton