

A note from the editor

Sadly for me, this will be my last issue of D-Liberation as editor. I am rotating out of the position after two years as suggested . At the Area Assembly on 4th December, Libby N. from Fairfield group and Kevin H. from Moonee Ponds BB Group were voted in as Editor and Alternate Editor respectively. I hope they enjoy publishing the Newsletter as much as I did!

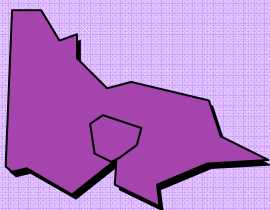
I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as Editor, especially researching articles for inclusion, which meant having to read various

publications and items from diverse sources. It certainly increased my knowledge of the 36 principles of AA embodied in the Steps, Traditions and Concepts! I also got to be in contact with DCMs and other committee members. As with most service in AA, the 'doer' gets as much, if not more, benefit as the receiver. Thanks, Area D, for giving me this chance and in particular thanks to Barry and Sue T for their support and backup, and for the many words of encouragement from subscribers.

By the way—remember that any member, not just GSRs, can subscribe, to the Newsletter at areadnewsletter@gmail.com. Remember to include a phone number so that we can contact you if your email changes and you forget to notify us.

To save on costs. we don't send out hard copies, we only send out electronic copies.

The deadline for any articles/ reports for the April 2012 edition is mid March.



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The Election Assembly Outcomes

In the spirit of rotation, the December Area Assembly had elections for several positions, the most important being the Area Delegate. There was more than one candidate for the Delegates position, so the "Third Legacy" Procedure for voting was brought into action, which gave the large number of GSRs who attended the opportunity to see AA democracy at work. The final result was that Terry H. from Williamstown Group was elected as Delegate. The other contender for the Delegate's position did not nominate for the Alternate Delegate's position. Congratulations to all those elected.

The final results were as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Delegate | Terry H (Williamstown) |
| • Alternate Delegate | Steve (Ballarat) |
| • Secretary | Susan (Ballarat) |
| • Public Information Co-ordinator | Matt McK (Northern Exposure Group) |
| • Editor, Area Newsletter | Libby N. (Fairfield Group) |
| • Alternate Newsletter Editor | Kevin H. (Moonee Ponds Big Book Study) |
| • Corrections Co-ordinator | Position no longer required (see page 6) |

New Email Contacts for Area Positions

Area Position	Email Address
Chairperson	areadchair@gmail.com
Secretary	theareadsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	areadtreasurer@gmail.com
Literature	areadliterature@gmail.com
Registrar	areadregistrar@gmail.com
Public Information	piaread@gmail.com
Area Newsletter	areadnewsletter@gmail.com

The Area Delegate report to the Area Assembly

The two most significant events for me since our last Assembly have been my participation in the AA General Service Conference in Sydney on 3-6th November and the organising of our AA participation in the General Practitioners Conference and Exhibition in Melbourne on 11-13th November.

The outcomes of the General Service Conference were covered in some detail at this morning's workshop. The full results will be available very soon on the AA National Service Website. They will also be distributed in the next edition of 'AA Around Australia'. I have attached information on those Conference outcomes that I think are the most pertinent, to this report.

Also attached is a summary of our involvement in the Melbourne General Practitioners Conference and Exhibition in November. I have submitted an article on that matter to the editor of 'AA Around Australia' and, if it is accepted it, will be published in the next edition of that newsletter.

SERVICE IN AREA D

This is the last Assembly to which I will be reporting as Area Delegate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Area Committee, the DCMs and the GSRs for the tremendous support that you have provided to me over the past three years.

From my point of view the most significant developments in Area D over those last three years have been:

The implementation of the **Area D Literature Ordering Service** which provides all of our Groups free postal delivery of their AA literature to whatever address they want it sent. I strongly encourage you to avail yourselves of the benefits of this efficient and cost effective service.

The emergence of the **North West Intergroup** which is not a structural component the Area but an Intergroup which was formed by Groups within our Area. It is an extremely effective service which I urge you support and participate in. It is a great way to contribute to AA service within our geographic area.

The emergence of the **Victorian Prisons Intergroup** is another wonderful development for AA members in our Area. Again this is not a structural component of Area D but as the majority of Victorian prisons are located within Area D it provides a great opportunity for local AA members to contribute AA service.

Thank you again.

Barry H.

Delegate, Area D

Southern Region

4th December, 2011



Attachment 1

THE AA GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, SYDNEY, 3-6th NOVEMBER

For most Victorians I think the most significant outcomes of the National Conference were:

1. Conference approved Area D to host a Southern Regional Forum in 2012.
2. Conference elected Sharon R., of the Western General Group, to the position of World Service Delegate.
3. On the matter of the Richmond office, Conference rescinded its 2010 directive to the General Service Board to have a legal injunction issued and, instead, authorised the GSB to take whatever actions it deemed necessary to fulfill its legal responsibilities to protect the registered trademarks and the literature licensing agreement. This means that it will be the Board rather than Conference who decides if, and what, legal action needs to be taken. Apart from this change in regard to the authorising of legal action the Conference position in respect of the Richmond office remains unchanged. The relevant decisions are as follows:

The 2010 Conference decision rescinded by the 2011 Conference was:

Advisory Action #058/2010:

"Conference resolved, after considering all information provided, that the General Service Board should instruct Matthew Rouse, Lawyer, to proceed to take out an injunction in the Federal Court against the Central Service Committee of AA Victoria to oblige them to comply with earlier requests by the General Service Board's solicitor, i.e. to cease using trademarks owned by the General Service Board, to cease selling exclusively licensed copyrighted literature and to cease publishing defamatory material about the General Service Board."

The 2011 Floor Action Conference decision adopted by Conference is:

Advisory Action xx/2011:

"The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board in taking whatever action is deemed necessary to fulfill its legal responsibilities to protect the registered trademarks and literature licensing agreement. The Conference also supports the General Service Board in taking whatever action is deemed necessary in the interests of the Fellowship to attend to matters relating to circulated misinformation affecting the General Service Structure and public liability insurance concerns."

Conference Topics 002/2011 and 003/2011 relating to the Richmond Service Office:

These topics were not heard as Conference felt them unnecessary consequent to the adoption of the above Advisory Action. (continued next page)

The Area Delegate report to the Area Assembly (continued)

The 2011 Floor Action for Conference to issue a message to the Australian Fellowship:

In conjunction with the adopted floor action above Conference also decided to issue the attached statement to the Australian fellowship:

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2011 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

The General Service Conference is the Group Conscience of our Australian Fellowship.

The 2011 Conference affirms that:

1. It appreciates that all AA members share a great passion for our Fellowship.
2. It has a duty to support all members and Groups across Australia. It operates according to a body of principles and relationships by which AA can function as a whole. This may require it to express a view on vital AA policy matters or on any hazardous deviation from AA Traditions.
3. AA Groups are autonomous and the primary source of authority for the Fellowship. Accordingly, Groups can decide to which AA service entity they donate member contributions.
4. It is the guardian of AA world services for Australia and accepts its custodianship of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions and its obligation to assist in carrying the message in Asia and Oceania.
5. Separate General Service and Central Service structures are essential to carry the message in Australia.
6. The most effective way to carry out the function of Conference is through a single National Office.
7. The General Service Board is empowered to act on its own responsibility, within the provisions of its own charter and by-laws.
8. Carrying the AA message in Australia is substantially funded from profits made from the sale of AA literature. This requires the General Service Board to hold the Australian copyright, protect AA trademarks, approve, publish and supply AA literature to members and the public.
9. The existing AA public liability insurance continues to protect group office bearers against being sued in the event that damage occurs at a meeting. A single national public liability policy reduces the risk of that insurance cover becoming the subject of dispute.
10. It understands that Conference is not a seat of power, but needs to act in the best interests of all members attending the 1,938 AA meetings listed on the AA website.
11. Any issue that significantly affects the Australian Fellowship must in future receive at least a two-thirds majority vote at Conference, and;
12. It will do everything possible to avoid any punitive action on members or create public controversy.

Conference is issuing this statement so that all members can share in the principles of recovery, unity and service that Conference embodies. This message summarises Conference's commitment to the long term health of our Fellowship.

Related Links:

- Twelve Steps: <http://www.aa.org.au/members/twelve-steps.php>
- Twelve Traditions: <http://www.aa.org.au/members/twelve-traditions.php>
- Twelve Concepts: <http://www.aa.org.au/members/twelve-concepts.php>

THE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, MELBOURNE, 11-13th NOVEMBER 2011



For the second year AA was offered a free stand the Melbourne General Practitioners Convention and Exhibition (GPCE) which was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 11-13th November 2011. A stand at this event usually cost several thousand dollars. As I understand the process the stands which have not been sold by the last few days prior to the event are then offered, at short notice, to community groups. As far as I can ascertain there was only one stall that had not been sold. We got the offer of it because as "AA" is alphabetically on top of the GPCE list of community organisations.

This year the amount of notice we got was very short. I was offered the opportunity the Wednesday morning with the request for an immediate "yes or no" response. The stand was to be set up on the Thursday and the actual event to commence at 8.30am on the Friday morning. This meant we had to organise the hire of stand furniture, stand posters, volunteers and literature delivery in roughly a day and a half. I rang Sharon Rexter, our Area PI Coordinator, to get her opinion to which she responded that it was 'an offer too good to refuse'. We decided to accept the offer. Sharon sprang into action with the design of forms and the printing of Meetings Lists. The GSB gave us a very quick upfront short term loan to cover the furniture hire. The NOAA issued the Insurance Certificate of Currency on the same day and had the required AA literature delivered to us on the next day. The literature was provided to us free as a NOAA contribution to the success of the event. The most outstanding part was the response from fifteen AA members from Southern Region who volunteered to give up part of their coming weekend to represent AA at the stand.

The outcomes of the event were a great success for us. We discussed AA's work with over a hundred General Practitioners, Senior nurses and Practice Managers. Thirty one GPs left their name with us for AA literature to be delivered to their practice addresses. Our presence there was also a reminder to GPs that know AA that we are active and ready to help – there were quite a few of those GPs who walk passed the stand and just commented about the good work AA does.

For me and the others involved this was a very good opportunity to make a contribution to AA service. I would particularly like to thank Sharon for her help and the fifteen members who so promptly volunteered to work at the stand and did such a wonderful job as representatives for AA.

Barry H.
Delegate, Area D
Southern Region

District News...

An AA District is a geographical unit within an Area containing a number of AA Groups, the number being dependent on the ability of the General Service Representatives (GSRs) to communicate between each other and to meet regularly together with comparative ease.

A metropolitan District may cover a small area but contain hundreds of Groups, while a rural District may cover many square kilometres but include as few as 3 or 4 Groups. As the number of Groups in an Area increases more Districts are formed, each new one then electing another District

Each District has a Committee Member (DCM) on the Area Committee.

Experience has shown that the answer to growth rests in the setting up of more Districts to meet the Fellowship's expansion in size and activities.

"Because of the closer communication links within the District, the Groups are able to share together and to carry their message more effectively."

Ballarat District

The Ballarat District is continuing to function well with our last District meeting being attended by 12 members, representing 6 groups. Before our last District meeting we held a service workshop to explain and encourage groups to understand the service structure of AA. The workshop was well attended by 15 members and some great ideas for further workshops were discussed. Public Information has been a big part of our District work lately and a PI Committee will be formed in the New Year.

A display of PI literature was put on show at the Ballarat Library, thanks to an idea borrowed from the Geelong PI Committee. An area for a larger display has been booked at the library for next year's drug action

week.

The Ballarat Anniversary committee is in full swing with next year's anniversary being 11 & 12th February. The hard working team has had several organising meetings and although they could do with some more help, they are doing a fantastic job. Any excess funds from the anniversary will be put towards PI & CPC work.

The 24 hour helpline continues to be manned by a small but keen crew who rotate on roster system. The number of calls have been down but the phone number goes on all the literature that goes out on display in Ballarat. The phone-line is funded by 5 groups in Ballarat and GOD willing, that will continue to carry the message to the still suffering

alcoholic.

Meetings in Ballarat continue to happen with group service positions beginning to be filled by new members, both new to sobriety and new to Ballarat and that has been very encouraging to see.

Ballarat District Committee.

<http://sites.google.com/site/ballarataadistrict/>

**Next District Meeting
Sunday 1:30pm date TBA
Eastwood Leisure Centre.
Eastwood & Peel Sts, Ballarat.**

Calder District

Calder District DCM's Report to D-Liberation Newsletter Dec2011

The organizing and hosting of the Calder PI Service Day held on October 22nd was the highlight of the past few months. Thanks especially to Glenn, Calder PI coordinator and his small committee, the organizing was low key and kept to a minimum. The event itself was quite a success with approximately 50 members attending the workshops and presentations during the day. There were quite a few relatively newcomers to service attending so this was especially encouraging to the organisers. The PI Day was centered on Tradition 3 & 5 – carrying the AA message from the Group through its members to the general public, the Why, How and Where of how to do it etc. Glenn will provide a report on the day later so all I can say is that it was a success

and a very worthwhile exercise for the District to be involved in. Special thanks to Chairman Glenn B, Warren, MC for the day, to John F from the Flemington group for providing a wonderful lunch, Fred from Kyneton for recording and to the Ballarat District, Anne O C, Sharon R, and Deb B who all gave wonderful presentations.

The Calder District Christmas Party was once again attended by the usual small but faithful members. The weather was not looking good but the rain held off long enough for a very nice friendly get-together, with some lovely food in very good sober company.

It is time again for Calder elections so hopefully tonight we will be able to fill the positions available through rotation. Rotation is so important for the growth of service and I would encourage everyone to get involved

and help run a better Calder District. It would be lovely to see some of the new GSR's who attended the December Area Assembly also attend the next Calder District.

Financially the District is going quite well thanks to the continuing financial support from about five groups in the District. The DePaul roster continues to do well under the guidance of Frank and Temp Contact by Mark. The next Calder District Meeting will be held at the Flemington AA Meeting venue on Thursday 9th February at 8PM. Yours in AA service

Kevin H

Calder District DCM

**Next Calder District Meeting:
Thursday 9th February at 8:00pm
Flemington Neighbourhood
House 8 Farnham Street,
Flemington. All GSRs in the
District are encouraged to attend.**

Geelong District

Geelong District going OK group-wise – all meetings functioning well.

Highlight recently has been Geelong Anniversary last weekend in October, which went extremely well – all meetings and Saturday night well-attended, plus broke even leaving prudent reserve for next year.

Big problem as always in Geelong, is lack of service work meaning some groups are not properly structured, so not attending district, assembly or delegate's meetings and not being kept in the loop.

Unfortunately we've also had to stop visiting local jails (Marngoneet & Barwon) as only one person carrying all the load for a long time now; and also treatment facilities roster is

currently on hold (Geelong Withdrawal Unit) as frequently members on roster were not turning up. Hopefully will be able to resurrect but with less visits next year. Certainly not good for outsiders' view of AA and our reputation, unsure whether current disunity issues responsible – certainly partly as many members are feeling jaded and disillusioned and focussing mainly on their own groups.

Being the optimist I always hope for better times ahead – we have rotation elections January 7 2012 with DCM position up for grabs; telephone roster has already changed hands, just needs affirming, & secretary maybe up for rotation. Treatment facilities and also

correctional facilities roster coordinator are always looking for new fresh hands!

So look out 2012 – Geelong District may have a few good surprises!!!

Yours in service,

Sue T

Geelong District DCM

Next Geelong District Meetings:
Saturday Geelong District Meetings are always the first Saturday of every other month commencing in January 10.30am-12noon Open Doors Meeting Place, Church of Christ Hall cnr Little Myer Street & Latrobe Tce, Geelong
Further information available from Sue on 0417 562604

Western Suburbs District

It has been a busy few months ! We have welcomed 2 more groups to the District, and look forward to their input for PI ideas .

We have focused on delivering literature to the Doctors in the District, and have provided literature to the Laverton / Altona area, Werribee GPs are being sent literature at this time. Steps in Seddon and the Spotswood Women's group are attending to the GPs in their immediate areas

We are also following up requests in our area from GPs gleaned from the

recent GPs Convention in which some members participated .

\$150 worth of Little Big Books have been allocated to the Prison Intergroup

Literature has also been provided to Community Groups in the Sunshine area , Courthouse , Police Station etc

Mick C has been busy giving out literature in Regional Victoria , and more has been ordered for him to distribute .

A recent Car Boot Sale was held to raise funds for the District and was a

great success ! Thank you to those who participated

We look forward to further PI activities in 2012

YIS

Leigh F
DCM - WSD

Western Suburbs District Meetings for 2012:
Tuesday 7:30pm: 21st Feb; time tba 27th March; 29th May; 26th June, 28th Aug, 25th Sept, 27th Nov
Venue TBA

Fund Raiser Report—Western Suburbs District

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who contributed their time, effort and resources to help make the "Car Boot Sale" fund raiser a success.

The event was held after the Werribee Sunday Meeting and was attended by approximately 20 people. Despite the relatively small turnout, the event still raised over \$486 towards literature in the district (after costs and original float from District are deducted. See attached table). I firmly believe that if the event had been a little better supported, the money raised could

have been considerably more [and subsequent amounts for the purchase of literature, far greater). Having said that, I still think that everyone involved deserves credit for having made the effort.

The money raised will be well used.

Given our success, another fund raiser ("Car Boot Sale"?) has been suggested for early next year. Perhaps the venue for this event could be rotated to allow for other groups (and people) to become more involved. I would hope that everyone

will keep an eye open for this and help raise awareness of the event at their local group level.

Special thanks to all the committee members who helped put the event together and, who their efforts, contributed so much towards its overall success.

Yours in service
Barry D



Public Information News...

This will be my last report as PI Coordinator for "D-Liberation". Rotation is essential for the spiritual growth of our Fellowship, accordingly, the Area has elected a new PI Coordinator, Matt MCK. - I wish him all the best that this fellowship has to offer and I am sure he will enjoy the role as much as I have. The Area once again was invited to participate at the National GP Convention in November at Jeff's Shed. There seemed to be a lot more interest in AA this year than in 2010. The most outstanding part was the response from fifteen AA members from Southern Region who

volunteered at 24hrs notice to give up part of their coming weekend to represent AA at the stand. The event was a great success for AA. We discussed AA's work with over a hundred General Practitioners, senior nurses and Practice Managers. Thirty-one GPs left their name with us for AA literature to be delivered to their practice addresses. Our presence there was also a reminder to GPs who know about AA, that we are active and ready to help - there were quite a few of those GPs who walk passed the stand and just commented about the good work AA does.

Calder District held its annual PI Forum in October. This was another successful day on the Area D calendar. Those who attended, came away with a sense that AA is alive and well, and will continue to thrive as long as AA members are willing to practice our three legacies: Recovery, Unity & Service

Yours in service

Sharon R.

Check the AA Service website for more PI Info:

www.aaservice.org.au

Unique 12th Step Opportunity

Notice to all women in AA Australia: WOMEN ALCOHOLICS IN INDIA ARE DYING because they are not getting help. In a population of over 1 billion people, there are currently only 13 female AA members in the whole of India.

AA India desperately needs your help! Take the trip of a lifetime and join with other AA women in carrying the message. The plan is to visit the cities of Mumbai, Pune, Mysore, Delhi and Calcutta and possibly others. Travel date will be in January 2013 and we anticipate the trip being for two weeks. See the attached flyer re registering your interest.

What kind are you?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
 Or are you just contented, your name upon the list?
 Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock?
 Or do you mostly stay at home, and criticise and knock?
 Do you take an active part, to help the work along?
 Or are you satisfied to be, the kind that just belong?
 Do you push the cause along, and make things really tick?
 Or leave the work to just a few, and talk about the "clique"?
 Think this over members, You know right from wrong,
 Are you an active member,
 OR DO YOU JUST BELONG? -Anon.

Victorian Prisons Intergroup

The Intergroup's Postal address is:

Victorian Prisons Intergroup
PO Box 632
Werribee Vic 3030

The Intergroup's Bank account details are:

Bank Acct Name: Victorian Prisons Intergroup
BSB : 063 541
Acct. No. : 1086 2793

The Payee name for cheques sent to the Intergroup is:

'Victorian Prisons Intergroup'
 Please include your group identification

The next meeting of the Victorian Prison Intergroup is:

DATE: Sunday 22nd January
TIME: 1pm -3pm
VENUE: The Cottage, 4 Synott Street, Werribee
 (the Werribee Sunday venue - opposite Kelly Park)

Discontinuance of Position of Corrections Facilities Officer on Area Committee

MOTION

Motion: That in view of the establishment of the Victorian Prisons Intergroup, the position of Correctional Facilities Officer on the Area D Committee be discontinued with effect from 1 March 2012; and, to enable the Fellowship at large to be kept informed of the activities of the Intergroup, that the Victorian Prisons Intergroup is encouraged to utilize opportunities provided by Area Assemblies, District Meetings, and other appropriate avenues, to provide information. Brief background to this motion provided by Peter M and Peter O'D:

The Prison District ceased functioning. As a result, the Area created the position of Correction Facilities Officer as a liaison role. Out of that the Victoria Prisons Intergroup (VPI) was formed. The VPI is an autonomous body and the Assembly is not responsible for it, nor is it responsible to the Assembly. Instead of a person liaising, the Assembly would encourage the VPI to report to the Area. Peter O'D asked the Assembly to move the Motion to Discontinue the Position of Correction Facilities Officer on Area Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Coming Events ... dates to put in your calendar

**Area D
Southern
Region**
PO Box 535
YARRAVILLE
VIC 3013

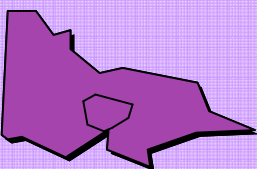
Email
aa@aread.org.au

We're on the web!

See us at
www.aread.org.au

Disclaimer:

Except for material identified as being taken directly from AA Conference Approved Literature, articles published in this Newsletter are the experience and opinion of the author, and are not necessarily the opinion of AA.



- Next Area D Assembly**
 Sunday 4th March, 1:00 pm
 Eastwood Leisure Complex
 20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat
 Workshop 11:00: TBA

- LANCEFIELD AA 12X12 GROUP**
 STEP 1 BEGINS AGAIN ON TUESDAY 17 JANUARY AT
 12 NOON AT
 LANCEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE SITUATED AT 78 HIGH
 STREET LANCEFIELD

- PRESTON WEDNESDAY NIGHT Anniversary BBQ**
 (corner Plenty Rd and Tyler St, Preston)
 February 8th, 2012, Food from 6:30 pm, Meeting 8:00 pm

- BALLARAT ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 61st
ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND**
 11-12th February
 Eureka Hall, Stawell St South, Ballarat (see attached flier)

- VICYPAA 2012 convention Feb 10-12 at the
Northcote Town Hall see [http://
www.vicypaa.org/](http://www.vicypaa.org/) details**

- Chapter Six Motorcycle Group**
 'Over the Mountains'
 5th Anniversary Ride
 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th March 2012
 (see website for details <http://chaptersix.vpweb.com.au/>)



- 2012 AA Australia National
Convention
in MELBOURNE
Easter 2012 (April 5-9)**
 (see website for details <http://www.melbourne2012.org/>)

About Area D

Area D Southern Region is a part of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Structure of Australia. As such we fully participate in

the Australian General Service Conference. We also support the AA National Office in any way we are able. Bordered by the Yarra river, the Area includes the Western and

Northern suburbs of Melbourne and extends to include other major cities such as Geelong and Ballarat, and regional centres such as Daylesford and Kyneton.