



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:** 10<sup>th</sup> January 2009

**Meeting Opened:** 1.45 pm

**Attendance:** Jim K (Turning Point)  
Area Delegate  
Ross H (Rutherford Truth)  
Observer  
Greg (Haven)  
Observer  
Karen D (Cessnock Steps)  
GSR  
Jeff J (Tarro YAH)  
Alt GSR

James Q (Turning Point)  
Area Chairman  
Brian M<sup>c</sup> (Cessnock Steps)  
Observer  
Ian M (Rutherford Truth)  
GSR  
Michael H (Kurri Steps & Trad)  
GSR

### Quorum Achieved

**Apologies:** Mick E (Morisset)  
Area Treasurer  
Gavin (Umina)  
GSR  
Rachael (Nelson Bay)  
GSR

Lenny S (Cessnock Living Sober)  
GSR  
Jenny W (Wamberal BBS)  
GSR

**Traditions Read By:** Ian M

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Jim K (Acting Secretary)

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

**Business Arising:** None

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Inwards:

- Box 459 (Oct/Nov 2008) from GSO New York
- LIM Australia (Nov/Dec 2008)
- Flyers for the Central Coast Rally – Distributed at Assembly
- Letter from National Office
- Letter from Lakeview Detox Unit
- Returned Correspondence from Woy Woy Wed 7.30pm – PO Box Cancelled.
- Emails from Valerie at National Office regarding:

arrangements for the meeting with the Board & Area E held at Umina in December 2008; possible candidates from Area C for the upcoming vacancy as Eastern Regional Trustee; concerns about a recent contact with a CSO who did not provide 12<sup>th</sup> step work.

- Email from organisers of the Spring Fling Convention in St Louis, Missouri

**Outwards:**

- Replies to Valerie's emails
- Email to Chris from Area A advising that the Trivia Nite at the Newcastle Rally will be run as a fundraiser for the 2010 National Convention to be held at Coffs Harbour.

**Business Arising:** None

**Moved Accepted :** Ian M

**Seconded :** Jeff J

**AREA CHAIR REPORT:** James Q

No report submitted.

**Business Arising:** N/A

**AREA DELEGATES REPORT:** Jim K

Jim read the report he prepared regarding the meeting with the Board, Area C & Area E held at Umina (Attached).

**Business Arising:** None

**Moved Accepted :** Michael H

**Seconded :** Ian M

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mick E

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**AREA C - Treasurers Report as at 10/1/2009**

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<b>Opening Balances:</b>	Achiever Passbook	<b>\$1000.00</b>
	Cheque Book	<b>\$3187.51</b>

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**Incoming Money:**

**Donations:**

1. Area C Meeting Donations (October)		\$ 22.20
2. Truth Group (77)		\$ 50.00
3. Freedom Group (78)		\$ 50.00
4. Turning Point Group (79)		\$ 45.00
5. Truth Group (80)		\$100.00

**Groups donation direct to bank**

6. Les S		\$350.00
7. Contact Group Gnd		\$135.00
8. Cessnock Steps Group		\$ 70.00
9. Tbbs		\$100.00
10. City Steps		\$ 50.00
11. Karuah		\$ 50.00
12. interest 31/12/08		\$ .85

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**Total Donations** **\$1023.05**

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**Incoming from Literature:**

1.		\$ .00
	<i>Literature sub-total</i>	<b>\$ .00</b>

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<b>Total Incoming Money</b>	<b>\$1023.05</b>
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**Outgoing Money:** (via cash – unless indicated)

1. Bank Charges – clearance fee x 2			<b>\$ 0.80</b>
2. Jim.K – post out and internet	#270124		<b>\$309.40</b>
3. Jim.K – Phone, BBQ, Norprint	#270125		<b>\$298.26</b>
4. Jim.K – mail out and printing	#270126		<b>\$186.54</b>
5. PHONE BILL AND ADVANCE	#see Mic	270127	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Total Outgoing</b>			<b>\$995.00</b>

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<b>Closing Balances: Achiever Passbook</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>
<b>Cheque Book</b>	<b>\$3415.56</b>

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**Cash-on-hand:**

Float Balance	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
Petty Cash Balance	<b>\$111.00</b>

##The \$100.00 per month automatically transferred from the cheque account to pay for the bill board on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month has ceased happening.

\$23 is accounted for and is to be reinburst to the literature fund.

**Business Arising:** None

**Moved Accepted :** Karen D

**Seconded :** Michael H

**GREATER NEWCASTLE D.C.M. REPORT:** Vacant

No report submitted.

**Business Arising:** N/A

**INSTITUTIONS REPORT:**

**TREATMENT CENTRES**

**Lorna House – Jim K (Turning Point)**

No report submitted.

**Lingard Hospital – James Q (Turning Point)**

In October I reported that we would be commencing a weekly meeting at Lingard Hospital. I am sorry to say that due to the legal and operational circumstances at Lingard Hospital we were not able to establish a fully-fledged AA meeting at this hospital. Instead I have been holding a weekly information session and discussion group with patients of the Woodlands Ward each Sunday at 2.30pm.

In the past three months attendance at these sessions has been sporadic, from no-one to 5 or 6, with a fair mix of men and women patients attending. General response to these sessions has been very positive, especially in the last month or so. Quite a few patients attending these sessions have requested further contact with AA either via individual 12<sup>th</sup> Step work or through requesting information about attending AA meetings upon their discharge.

However, the present arrangement has a few problems:

1. There is uncertainty about the number of patients that may attend on a Sunday afternoon, as many patients get weekend leave after a few days on the ward.
2. The timing of the session seems to be inconvenient for other members to participate. As a result I have been conducting these sessions alone.
3. Patients generally are admitted for a period of 2-3 weeks, so the sessions tend to become repetitive.

I have recently been in contact with the staff member who is now responsible for liaising with us & coordinating the work we do in the Woodlands Ward. I hope to meet with her soon to review the arrangements for the Information session and hopefully negotiate a new arrangement that is more suitable for both myself and any potential volunteers as well as for the staff and patients at Lingard.

We also continue to get regular calls from the staff in the Woodlands Ward for 12<sup>th</sup> Step calls. In the past three months we have averaged about one a fortnight. The majority of these are from women patients and it is increasingly apparent that we may need to establish a 12<sup>th</sup> Step call roster for Lingard Hospital, with a number of women members to spread the workload, as I have been referring all of the requests for 12<sup>th</sup> Step calls for women patients to one female member.

### **Kirkwood House – Michael H (Kurri Steps & Traditions)**

I have had an average of 7 prospects at each session 4 of Alcohol & 3 of drugs. Current meeting lists are given out. Michael requested that the Area provide banners for the presentation.

### **Lakeview Lodge – Lou C**

Recess from the same dates as Newcastle Court. We generally have 10 prospects at each meeting. Of the 10 prospects 7 are of alcohol descent & the other 3 drugs. All well at Lakeview, average 6 people each Sunday.

Vince D has asked for the Area to provide more meetings list for the hospital programme. Have talked to Lakeview and arranged for the Area to provide Meetings Lists and Is AA for you. In response to Lakeview's letter to the Area I have arranged for the purchasing of 10 Revivers per month and Sponsor's Wallets. Have informed them not to ask the AA presenters at Lakeview but to always contact the Area through the Lakeview coordinator Jim K.

## **CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

### **Cessnock Gaol – Lenny S (Cessnock Living Sober)**

#### **Minimum Security**

**1/12/08**

Members – Ken – Cessnock Living Sober  
Brian – Cessnock Steps  
Yvonne – Cessnock Steps

**8/12/08**

Members – Dick – Terrigal Beach  
Geoff – Terrigal Beach  
Lenny – Cessnock Living Sober  
Inmates – 7

**15/12/08**

Members – Ian – Rutherford  
Cheryl - Branxton

Inmates - 7

**22/12/08** – John R – Gosford Kookaburra  
Group

Eric – Terrigal Beach

David – Gosford Kookaburra Group

Inmates – 9

**29/12/08** – Brian – Cessnock Steps

Lenny – Cessnock Living Sober

Inmates - 8

**Maximum Security****1/12/08**

Lock Down

**8/12/08**

Members – Brian – Cessnock Steps

Cherie – Cessnock Living Sober

Lenny S - Cessnock Living Sober

Inmates - 8

**15/12/08**

Lock down

**22/12/08** - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps

Cherie S – Cessnock Living Sober

Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober

Inmates –8

29/12/08 – Staff Shortage

**Protection Wing****1/12/08**

Lock Down

**8/12/08**

Cancelled due to storm

**15/12/08**

Members - Brian Mc – Cessnock Steps

Cherie S – Cessnock Living Sober

Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober

Inmates - 6

**22/12/08** -

Jim K – Turning Point

Ian M - Rutherford

Inmates –4

**29/12/08** – Staff Shortage**Business Arising:** None**Moved Accepted :** Michael H**Seconded :** Jeff J**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:**

**Jim K - 0425215693 - Lenny 0438299320**

Thank you for your consideration.

**EVENTS & WORKSHOP COMMITTEE REPORT:** Vacant

No report submitted.

**Business Arising:** N/A

**PI COMMITTEE REPORT:** Vacant

No report submitted.

**Business Arising:** N/A

**COURTS PROGRAMME REPORT:** Tom M (Raymond Terrace)**Newcastle**

Name of AA person in attendance

Vince D

Name of attending Judge

Monahan, Miss Truscott

Number of referrals

4

**Comments or how referred**

In the last few months I have met about 5 people at meetings 1 a lawyer sent 1 to me and I have sent a few envelopes to people. Magistrate: Solicitor: Aboriginal Support Worker: Self:

### **Raymond Terrace**

Name of AA person in attendance Tom M  
Name of attending Judge Col Elliot, Sharon Cruise  
Number of referrals 2

### **Comments or how referred**

Magistrate: Solicitor: 1 Aboriginal Support Worker: Self: 1

### **Toronto**

Name of AA person in attendance Tom M  
Name of attending Judge Jackie Tradd  
Number of referrals 1

### **Comments or how referred**

Magistrate: Solicitor: Aboriginal Support Worker: Self: 1

**Business Arising:** None

**Moved Accepted :** Ian M

**Seconded :** Michael H

**12 Step Volunteers needed for Court Program Contact Tom 49873249  
(Raymond Terrace) on: 0419681636**

### **AREA WEBSITE REPORT: Jim K (Turning Point)**

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2009	115	160	337	344	5.39 MB
Nov 2008	564	834	2060	2070	30.78 MB
Dec 2008	316	650	1683	1703	27.61 MB

**Business Arising:** None

**Moved Accepted :** Jeff J

**Seconded :** Michael H

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

**Area Delegate:** Held over until next assembly to allow Central Coast groups to put forward a candidate if they wish.

**Secretary:** James Q (Turning Point) agreed to serve as Acting Secretary until another person can be found to take on the position. Unanimously agreed.

**Treasurer:** John C (Tarro BBS), current alternate Treasurer, agreed to take on the position. Unopposed, elected unanimously.

**PI Co-ordinator:** Michael H (Kurri Steps & Traditions) agreed to take on the position. Unopposed, elected unanimously.

**Registrar:** Jim K (Turning Point) agreed to take on this position. Unopposed, elected unanimously.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Questions were raised about the actual physical boundaries of Area C. Jim K stated that the National Office does provide maps showing the geographic boundaries of the Area but that they are poorly made and hard to understand. Consensus was that the Area should prepare a Topic for Conference requesting that the National Office create new maps which clearly show the boundaries of Areas and provide clear explanation of the reasons for these boundaries.
- A number of possible Topics for Conference were raised and discussed, as follows:
  1. That a meeting be held between National Office and representatives of all CSOs to discuss and

promote unity and cooperation between the two arms of service in AA. Jim K from Turning Point volunteered to develop this topic.

2. That the procedure documents for Conference Committees be amended to include the sentence "Any Topic which contravenes any one of the Twelve Traditions must be rejected by the members of the Conference Committee." Jim K from Turning Point volunteered to develop this topic.
3. That Conference Committee reports include notes regarding the Traditions and Concepts considered in relation to the Topic and a summary of the reasons for the Committee's recommendation. Jim K from Turning Point volunteered to develop this topic.
4. That general guidelines for members attending correctional facilities (subject to local conditions and circumstances) be prepared and added to the Service Guidelines. Lenny S from Cessnock Living Sober was nominated to develop this topic.
5. That a pamphlet be produced on Service Sponsorship explaining: that the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition relates to time as well as money; what groups do; what CSOs do; what National Office does. Jeff J from Tarro YAH volunteered to develop this topic.
6. That the way that National Office's prudent reserve is calculated be published with the annual financial reports, current conference financial reports so the Finance Committee can establish if National Office's finances have exceeded the prudent reserve, and that if the prudent reserve is exceeded in one year this excess be used to provide benefits to AA groups as decided by Conference. Michael H from Kurri Steps and Traditions volunteered to develop this topic.
7. That a banner be produced showing the long form of the Traditions. Ian M from Rutherford Truth volunteered to develop this topic.
8. That a banner be produced that lists the promises listed on pages 83 & 84 of the Big Book. Rachel from Nelson Bay was nominated to develop this topic.
9. That an abridged copy of the minutes of all Board meetings be distributed to Area Delegates to keep the fellowship informed of matters discussed and decisions made at each Board meeting as well as the Board's progress on action to fulfil topics accepted by Conference. Turning Point group agreed to develop this topic.
10. That National Office produce a card similar to the Just For Today card containing the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Step prayers. James Q from Turning Point volunteered to develop this topic.
11. That National Office produce a document that clearly shows the geographic boundaries of the Areas and Regions, and that clearly explains the reasons for these boundaries.

#### **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 boundaries

#### **RALLIES, BIRTHDAYS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

##### **Newcastle Rally**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009

Uniting Church Hall, 178 Glebe Rd Merewether

##### **Central Coast Rally**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009

La Salle Youth Camp, McKillop Rd Kincumber

**Assembly closed in Harmony, Unity and Good AA Fellowship with the Serenity Prayer at:  
3.40pm**

**NEXT ASSEMBLY:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009, commencing at 2pm  
Umina Uniting Church Hall  
Cnr Ocean Beach & Neptune Rds, Umina.

Area Secretary < [secretary20@aa-area-c.org](mailto:secretary20@aa-area-c.org) >

PI/CPC < [pi20@aa-area-c.org](mailto:pi20@aa-area-c.org) >

**E-mail:** For 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

**24hr 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:** e.g. Stockton



