



## 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 at:** [www.aa-area-c.org/All Area C Minutes.htm](http://www.aa-area-c.org/All Area C Minutes.htm)

**Date:** Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009

**Meeting Opened:** 2.15 pm

<b>Attendance</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Position</b>
James Q.	Turning Point	Area Chair / Acting Secretary
Gavin R.	Umina Recovery	Observer
Jim K.	Turning Point	Newcastle District DCM
Ian M.	Rutherford Truth	GSR
Lorraine M.	Nelson Bay	GSR
Harry R.	Nelson Bay	Alt. GSR
John C.	Tarro Big Book Study	Area Treasurer
Michael E.	Morisset	Alt. GSR
Jeff J.	Tarro Young at Heart	Alt. GSR
Phil S.	Umina Men's	Observer

**Quorum Achieved:** Yes

**Traditions Read By:** Gavin R.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to accept the Minutes of the previous Assembly as read.

<b>Moved Accepted :</b> Jim K.	<b>Seconded :</b> Ian M.
--------------------------------	--------------------------

### Incoming Correspondence:

- Minutes of Brisbane Water District Meeting held on 5/2/09 and Agenda for meeting on 4/3/09.
- Renewal notice dated 13/2/09 for Post Office Box 196, Jesmond (Newcastle District / Area C PO Box).
- E-mail from International Convention Coordinator dated 13/2/09 re 2010 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas.
- Final notice dated 1/4/09 for Post Office Box 196 Jesmond (Newcastle District / Area C PO Box).
- Minutes of Brisbane Water District Meeting held on 4/3/09 and Agenda for meeting on 7/4/09.

**Outgoing Correspondence:** None.

**Business Arising:** None

<b>Moved Accepted :</b> Jim K.	<b>Seconded :</b> Phil S.
--------------------------------	---------------------------

**AREA CHAIR REPORT:**

No Report Tabled

**Business Arising:** N/A

**AREA DELEGATES REPORT:**

No report tabled as there is currently no Area Delegate.

**Business Arising:** N/A

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Current Bank Account Balance: \$4359.75.

**Business Arising:** None.

<b>Moved Accepted :</b> Jim K.	<b>Seconded :</b> Phil S.
--------------------------------	---------------------------

**CENTRAL COAST D.C.M. REPORT:**

No Report Tabled, minutes of last 2 District Meetings tabled instead.

**Business Arising:**

Jim suggested that the Area send the Central Coast District a letter thanking them for sending their minutes and inviting them to participate in the Area Assembly. General agreement to do this. Secretary to follow up.

Gavin acknowledged and thanked the Area for its persistence and patience with engaging the groups on the Central Coast and holding the Assembly on the Central Coast.

<b>Moved Accepted :</b> Ian M.	<b>Seconded :</b> Harry R.
--------------------------------	----------------------------

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

As the DCM I attended the Newcastle Rally and was pleased by the Unity and fellowship shown by the members that attended the rally. The numbers that attended were good we averaged over 30 per meeting, next year I would like to see an average of 50 per meeting this will only happen if Newcastle can forget the past and move forward in Unity. I would have liked to see more intercity Newcastle Group Members attending than did attend.

This is something that I will have to look at as DCM, The Lake, Nelsons Bay, and Lower Hunter Groups were well represented and everybody I talked to had a great time. The breakfast meeting at Merewether Surf Club was one of the highlight meetings of the weekend, thanks to Mick E for organising the use of the facility.

The Turning Point Group has asked Mick if he can see if they can use the facility on a regular bases for a meeting on Saturday morning’s hope that this goes ahead as it is a great venue.

The best meeting for me was the Sunday spiritual concepts meeting, a young girl from Sydney shared on her journey with such honesty and passion that it left me lifted and at the same time wondering how come I did not have that grasp of the self honesty part of the program at that age in sobriety, the language of the heart reached out and touched me, all speakers spoke on the spirit it was a great meeting all round.

I will be doing a tour of all Greater Newcastle District Groups to talk to members about what they think Newcastle AA needs to do and how we should do it, Unity between the whole Greater Newcastle

fellowship will be a priority for me in my stint as DCM please help me with any suggestion's you may have to help achieve this.

I have had to attend the Nelsons Bay Group, Group Conscious and help with a problem to do with predatory behaviour by an AA member using this AA Board Document.

**Business Arising:** None.

<b>Moved Accepted :</b> Phil S.	<b>Seconded :</b> Jeff J.
---------------------------------	---------------------------

**TREATMENT CENTRES & CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES REPORT:  
TREATMENT CENTRES**

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

We have implemented the changes suggested by the committee, starting off with information about how AA started, who started it, how the big book came to being and literature. We are going through the preamble in sections discussing it and asking people if they have any questions we are also working through is AA for you the 12 questions, we have been putting the banners up to give the clients an idea what a meeting would be like. This I believe is making the clients feel more involved and prone to ask more questions. Kerry from hope, Vince from Lambton and Garry from Tarro BBS have regularly been attending and helping at various times which makes it easier for me.

However Kirkwood has seen over the last few months the number of clients attending drop. Andrew the Social worker stated that some people don't bother to attend then latter realise this effects their report.

**Lakeview Lodge** – Jim K. (Turning Point)

The following is a sample of scheduled email that goes out every Wednesday to remind presenters who is doing Lakeview this month.

<p>Today's Date is: Wednesday, 8 April 2009 Hi Kirra, John - Naomi, Lou, Lenny, Lindsay and Jim What is the date tomorrow? If it is the First Thursday of the month Lou you and Jim are doing Lakeview. If it is the second Thursday of the month. John you and Naomi are doing Lakeview. If it is the 3rd Thursday of the month. Lou you and Jim are doing Lakeview.</p>	<p>If it is the 4th Thursday of the month. Jim you and Kirra are doing Lakeview. If it is the 5th Thursday of the month. (April, July, October, December) Lenny and Lindsay it's your turn to do Lakeview Regards Lakeview Coordinator.</p>
---	---

We have been getting around 10 to 12 patients every week lately 2/3 Men 1/3 Women Naomi has been very popular with the women and Kirra will be doing her first meeting this month it is good to have women attending Lakeview Detox as presenters.

Patients at all meetings have been participating in the meeting and questions have been asked throughout the meetings, Lou and I where there for 1 ½ hours last week answering questions and talking to the patients.

The Is AA for You questions that Lenny S the Area & National Coordinator for T&CF suggested that we as an Area used in our Hospital programmes is working well and starting the patient participation happening early in the presentations.

The practise of if the patients have no questions at the end of the presentation of asking them questions such as has anyone here done AA before is also helping with getting the patients involved in the meeting.

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

I have reorganised the visiting schedule for the Woodlands Ward, and as of February we have been visiting fortnightly on Tuesdays at 6.30 pm. This change seems to be bringing some benefits, as there are more patients attending and two female members have been available to attend the presentations.

Attendance has varied from 1 to 4, but most patients seem to identify and we have had two women attend Turning Point Group's meeting on Saturdays as a result of our visits to the ward. This is an excellent outcome and I hope that this will inspire more members of Turning Point Group to step up and get involved in visiting Lingard, as it is one of our Group's accepted responsibilities for PI/CPC and 12<sup>th</sup> Step work in our local area.

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

Attendees 11/03/2009: 13 Alkies: 6 Men, 7 Women

I started the presentation with some answers to some of the problems that they told the clinician at their weekly check in before I was due to start.

1. **Lack of Sleep:** Told them a common problem in recovering Alkies but they won't die from it and it will go away with time, if they drink though they could certainly die.
2. **Craving for sugar** (lollies, Ice Cream and such): Told them a common problem in recovering Alkies but it gets better with time.

I then read the preamble explaining a bit about what it was saying, I then talked about what they could expect at their first AA meeting and about different types of AA meetings and looking for the Similarities and not the Differences and trying more than one meeting giving AA one month before making a decision.

I then took them through the 12 questions from Is AA for You getting them to participate by putting their hands up if their answer was yes, I then told my story talking about my the physical craving coupled with the mental obsession.

After the meeting 2 men had questions, one kept me there for 2 more hours talking about AA, which for me made the day a success.

## **CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

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

#### **Minimum Security**

**Members** – Brian – Cessnock Steps, Ken P – Cessnock Living Sober, Yvonne – Cessnock Steps, Eric – Terrigal Beach, John R – Gosford Kookaburra Group, Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober

**Numbers of meetings held = 2**

**Total Inmate Attendances for month = 22**

#### **Maximum Security**

**Members** - Brian – Cessnock Steps, Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober, David – Gosford Kookaburra Group

**Numbers of meetings held = 3**

**Total Inmate Attendances for month = 22**

#### **Protection Wing**

**Members** - Brian – Cessnock Steps, Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober

**Numbers of meetings held = 2**

**Total Inmate Attendances for month = 6**

Due to industrial action and staff shortages, the Gaol was locked down on 3 occasions. This problem is likely to continue until at least August until the privatization takes over or it reverts back to the way it was.

This is very important. The Monday night Minimum Security meeting will now be held on Wednesdays at 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Will keep everyone on the same week of their roster as before. Eg 1<sup>st</sup> week – Ken, Brian and Yvonne etc. If this is unsatisfactory for you, let me know on 0438-299320 or 02-40160003.

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

**Raymond Terrace**

Name of AA Person in Attendance: Tom

Name of Attending Judge: Col Elliot

Number of Referrals: 0

**Toronto**

Name of AA Person in Attendance: Tom

Name of Attending Judge: Jackie Tradd

Number of Referrals: 3

Comments or how referred:

Salvation Army Officer: 0

Solicitor: 1

Aboriginal support person: 0

Self : 2

**Business Arising:** Jim K. reported that 7-8 phone contacts have been referred to Tom in addition to those at court.

<b>Moved Accepted :</b> Jeff J.	<b>Seconded :</b> Michael E.
---------------------------------	------------------------------

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

**TC&F 12<sup>th</sup> STEP OPPORTUNITIES**

All Groups are requested to pass the message on to their members regarding the need for people to undertake 12<sup>th</sup> Step Work in Treatment Centres. At the moment only a very small number of members are active in this work. The Area is seeking members who are willing to do service work in Institutions.

**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 pm to 2.30 pm.

**Lakeview** is every Thursday from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

**Lingard Hospital** is visited every second Tuesday at 6.30 pm.

**For further information please contact:**

**Jim K - 0425215693 - Lenny 0438299320**

Thank you for your consideration.

**EVENTS & WORKSHOP COMMITTEE REPORT:**

No report submitted.

**Business Arising:** N/A

## PI COMMITTEE REPORT:

No report Submitted.

**Business Arising:** N/A

## AREA WEBSITE REPORT:

Getting a lot of hits. Meetings lists just brought up to date. Newcastle meetings lists will need to be updated again soon due to changes with Wisteria House. Jim thanked Gavin for his assistance with the Central Coast meetings list.

**Business Arising:** None

<b>Moved Accepted :</b>	Jeff J.	<b>Seconded :</b>	Harry R.
-------------------------	---------	-------------------	----------

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Area Delegate. This is a critical issue. Jim K completed his 3 year term as Delegate in January this year. No candidate came forward. Various possibilities were discussed. To resolve this matter it was agreed to hold an extraordinary Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> May in Newcastle, venue to be announced.
- Topics for conference were discussed:
  1. That a card similar to the Just For Today card be produced comprising the Third, Seventh & Eleventh Step Prayers.
  2. That a banner be produced that lists the promises listed on pages 83 & 84 of the Big Book.
  3. That a one off meeting be held between the General Service Conference and representatives of all CSOs to discuss and promote unity and cooperation between the two arms of service in AA.
  4. That an abridged copy of the minutes of all Board meetings be distributed to Area Delegates to keep the fellowship informed of decisions made at each Board meeting as well as the Board's progress on action to fulfil topics accepted by Conference.
  5. 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."
  6. That Conference Committee reports come back to full conference with:
    1. The Traditions and Concepts that the committee considered might be affected by this Topic.
    2. Bullet point reasons for the committee's recommendation.
  7. That:
    1. The formula used to calculate the Prudent Reserve Amount should be published in the current Conference Financial Report in the appropriate place.
    2. The Prudent Reserve Amount that was calculated from last year's budget should always be shown on the current conference financial report as well as this year's calculated prudent reserve so Fellowship, Finance Committee and Conference can see if we have exceeded Prudent Reserve.
    3. Where the funds available to the General Service Board exceed the Prudent Reserve, a proposal for how the excess funds should be spent is to be formulated by the GSB and approved by the Delegate body at the following General Service Conference.

All topics were voted upon and passed by the Assembly for submission to National Office. Secretary to follow up by emailing topic documents to National Office.

- Discussion re the Area purchasing a laptop computer with wireless internet for use at the Area Assembly and for the secretary to undertake their duties.

Motion put forward: That the Assembly delegate the Area Executive to investigate and purchase a laptop computer for the Area. That such expenditure be limited to \$1000. Motion passed unanimously.
- Formation of Area Committees for TC&F, PI and Events/Workshops. It was suggested that these committees need to be formed to coordinate service work in the Area. It was suggested that each

GSR and alternate GSR be members of these committees, to get these committees functioning. Pros & cons of establishing these committees this way were discussed. It was agreed to send a mail out to all groups in the Area requesting that they participate in the Area Assembly and Committees by sending a GSR and an alternate GSR to the next Extraordinary Area Assembly meeting.

- Mick E nominated as Area Chairman and was elected unanimously.
- James Q gratefully stepped down as Chairman & will continue as Area Secretary.
- It was suggested that the Area send Central Coast District a copy of the Area Guidelines. Secretary will attach a copy with the mailout.

### **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

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

**Assembly closed in Harmony, Unity and Good AA Fellowship with the Serenity Prayer at 4.05pm.**

**NEXT ASSEMBLY:** Sat, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 at 1.30pm.  
Venue: Salvation Army Hall, Cumberland St, Cessnock.

### **AREA C CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**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)

**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)

### **Account details for Group or Individual donations to Area C:**

**Bank Name:** Newcastle Permanent building Society

**Account Name:** Alcoholics Anonymous

**BSB:** 650-000

**Account Number:** 960962709

**Please include a comment indicating Group Name or initials:** e.g. Stockton