



MINUTES OF AREA ASSEMBLY

Area C Web Site: www.aa-area-c.org

Copies of all Area C Minutes available at: www.aa-area-c.org/All Area C Minutes.htm

Date: 11th July 2009

Meeting Opened: 1.20pm

Attendance		
Name	Group	Position
Jim K	Turning Point	DCM - Newcastle
Jeff J	Tarro YAH	Area Delegate
James Q	Turning Point	GSR, Area Secretary
Ian M	Rutherford Truth	GSR
Mic E	Morisset	Area Chairman
Mick N	Morisset	GSR
John C	Tarro BBS	GSR, Area Treasurer
Tom M	Raymond Terrace	GSR
Paul W	Raymond Terrace	Visitor
Mick K	Turning Point	Visitor

Quorum Achieved: Yes

Apologies		
Name	Group	Position
Lenny S	Cessnock Living Sober	GSR
Lorraine	Nelson Bay	GSR

Traditions Read By: James Q

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous assembly. Motion put forward to accept the Minutes of the previous Assembly as read.

Moved Accepted :	Jim K	Seconded:	Jeff J
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Incoming Correspondence:

- 3/6/09: Central Coast District: Minutes of Meeting held 5th May & Agenda for Meeting 2nd June.
- Host Planning Committee Minutes for 2010 Convention from Area A.

Outgoing Correspondence:

- 15/5/09: Letter to Central Coast District inviting their participation in Area Assemblies, with 2 copies of the Area Guidelines.

Business Arising: None

AREA CHAIR REPORT:

No report presented.

AREA DELEGATES REPORT:

This being my first report since being voted in as delegate I haven't a lot to say, as I have done very little to date except read and attempt to digest my duties and responsibilities.

I must also admit I was a reluctant participant in taking on the responsibilities of delegate.

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim K for the wonderful and robust service he has and is giving to Area C and the travelling he did on that motorcycle, even in winter, in an attempt to unify Area C is outstanding. Jim has set the bar high in his term as delegate. I am sure I say from all in Area C, well done Jim and Thank You!

There have been some questions raised at the district level as to the viability of obtaining premises for the purpose of having a 12 step office in the Greater Newcastle District (GND) and some progress has been made in the way of:

1. The Lord Mayor of Newcastle was approached by the GND as to the availability of suitable council premises that would match our price range.
2. All AA Groups and AA Members are cordially invited to a meeting on Saturday the 25th of July 2009 at 2.30 – 4.30pm to discuss the necessity and viability of a physical 12 step office in Newcastle.
3. I pray this meeting will have a unifying and healthy impact on the AA membership of Newcastle & the Lower Hunter. This could be achieved by keeping our primary purpose close to mind, that of helping the sick Alcoholic to achieve sobriety.
4. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at this meeting, God Bless!

If anyone would like to discuss this matter with me please contact me on 4964 1344 or 0409 641 304.

Business Arising: Ian M asked for clarification of who is invited to attend the meeting re the office on 25/7/09. This meeting is open to all members of AA in the greater Newcastle area.

Moved Accepted :	Paul M	Seconded :	Ian M
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Last Assembly Date: 18/4/09

Current Assembly Date: 11/7/09

Opening Balance (Final Balance of Last Report): \$4359.75

Total Outgoing: \$963.60

Final Balance: \$3882.84

Business Arising: The issue of sending a Delegate to conference this November was raised. Various matters related to the National Conference were discussed. Jim K put forward a motion that we immediately pay National Office the full amount to send a Delegate to conference, seconded by Harry. Several people talked for the motion. No-one spoke against the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved Accepted :	John C	Seconded :	Jim K
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CENTRAL COAST D.C.M. REPORT:

No Report Submitted.

GREATER NEWCASTLE D.C.M. REPORT:

I have arranged for the hall for the meeting of the Newcastle Groups, because it was decided that this meeting should be at a neutral meeting place (not a hall that any AA Groups were currently meeting at) this was harder than you would think.

I managed to get the hall at the Uniting Church on Civic Park which is a good venue that all members can get to easily, we have been given the hall at a good price a donation to the church, we thank the church for their generosity and kindness for this action.

Due to health conditions I have not been able to do much else in the position as DCM this month, I am hoping to be able to start a Group visit schedule shortly and will be asking the Area Delegate if he would like to accompany me on this important duty.

Business Arising: None

Moved Accepted :	Jim K	Seconded :	Mic E
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TREATMENT CENTRES & CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES REPORT:

TREATMENT CENTRES

McCauley Unit (former Kirkwood House) – Vince D (Freedom)

The McCauley unit at the Mater Hospital is the name of the Unit replacing Kirkwood House from the old James Fletcher hospital. The presentation by AA is still on at the same Time and day; Monday, there were 9 people there 4 with Alcohol Problems & 5 with Drug problems. It was a good meeting, in the new unit. Dave was the Psychologist in charge of the group, they are still doing the finishing touches to the building and the lifts were not working at the time of the presentation.

Lakeview Lodge – Jim K. (Turning Point)

Numbers have been consistent at about 10, with the male female mix varying between 2 to 5, Talking to our presenters, I have found out that question time after the presentation and talking to some patients is consistently happening for between ½ hour to 1 hour, this is showing us that the presentations are working and our presenters are putting in extra time and this is showing the patients a good message about AA.

Lingard Hospital – James Q. (Turning Point)

In the past three months there has been a significant drop off in patients attending our presentations each fortnight – average is around 1, and sometimes there have been no patients willing to attend. I cannot explain this drop of in attendance and interest, but it brings into question the practicality of continuing to provide this service to Lingard Hospital. If we are only getting one person a fortnight I feel it would be more practical to cease giving the presentations and arrange individual 12th step calls for patients who want them. I will continue to attend Lingard in the immediate future, but will arrange a meeting with the nursing staff soon to discuss the matter and see what arrangements can be made to continue to provide service to the Woodlands Ward in a mutually beneficial way, and will report back at the next assembly.

Lorna House – Jim K. (Turning Point)

There were 5 people at the Lorna house meeting all were Alkies one woman 4 men, 2 were currently attending AA meetings, It was a good meeting with question time going on for 1 hour, I gave one of the men our Court Coordinators number, all the male's attending indicated that they would attend some AA meeting and give AA a try.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Cessnock Gaol – Lenny S. (Cessnock Living Sober)

There are changes to the meeting times at Cessnock Correctional Centre. The Monday meetings for the Remand Centre and Protection Wing will remain the same.

Remand Centre -Meet at Gate with AOD Worker at 12.30pm on Mondays, with the meeting at 12.45pm.

Protection Wing - continue on after Remand Centre meeting – Meeting at 2.05pm on Mondays - Finishes at 2.50pm. Out of Centre at 3.00pm

Minimum Security - Meet at gate at 2.15pm on Thursdays with AOD Worker - Meeting is 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Out of centre by 4.15pm

COURTS PROGRAMME REPORT: Tom M (Raymond Terrace) & Vince D (Freedom)

Raymond Terrace: 3 referrals.

Toronto: 1 referral.

Tom M.

Newcastle court average of 2 .5 contacts per Tuesday.

On my first day at Belmont I had 3 contacts. One to go to AA & I saw him the next evening at Pelican.

Regards, Vince D.

Business Arising: None

Moved Accepted :	Mick N	Seconded :	Jeff J
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12 Step Volunteers needed for Court Program Contact Tom (Raymond Terrace) on: 49873249 OR 0419681636

TC&F 12th STEP OPPORTUNITIES

All Groups are requested to pass the message on to their members regarding the need for people to undertake 12th 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.

McCauley Unit, 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.

McCauley Unit 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 Hosptial 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 as we have no Events Committee at present.

Business Arising: Jim K mentioned that we need to consider arranging some events asap as we need to raise funds for the Area. James Q advised that he has the Trivia Nite prepared – he will organise something as soon as possible.

PI COMMITTEE REPORT:

No report presented as there is no functioning PI Committee.

AREA WEBSITE REPORT:

MD Web Hosting who we have our domain names registered with contacted me this month about a way of cheapening up our costs with domain name registration, during the conversation I mentioned another Web Site Hosting company that has free domain registrations for 3 domain names as part of the package and is half the price per year for the web site hosting package, we have 3 domain names registered (www.aa-area-c.org, www.newcastle-aa.org.au, www.central-coast-aa.org.au).

He said they could not match that, I said as a charitable organisation we had to look for the best deals possible, he then informed me they host charitable organisation for nothing so we now have a saving of \$249 year on the cost of our web site reducing the cost to about \$60 per year.

Business Arising: None

Moved Accepted :	Jim K	Seconded :	Jeff J
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GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Jim K suggested that at Area Assemblies the long form of the traditions be read rather than the short form, because these are the actual traditions of AA, not those on the banner. There was some discussion around the interpretation of the traditions, and the assembly was reminded that the issue was around reading the long form, not the area's interpretation of them. Those against said that the need to include the long form was not necessary as most attending the assembly should have an understanding of the traditions. Chairman put forward the motion that the long form of the traditions be read out at the beginning of Area Assemblies rather than the short form. This motion to be taken back to groups for discussion at their group consciences.
- Area Committees. James Q raised the lack of functioning committees at the Area level. The need for these committees to be functioning, and for groups to engage in these committees by electing representatives to sit on these committees was discussed. The need for GSRs to effectively carrying issues raised at Area back to their group consciences for consideration was also discussed.
- The matter raised at the last Greater Newcastle District re singleness of purpose in relation to service was put forward for discussion. The issue was put forward as a matter of implying affiliation between fellowships where an AA member may undertake service work for both AA and another 12 step fellowship. The matter was discussed at length, and Jeff J put forward a solution (attached) which clarifies the GND's and Area's position which was generally accepted as an appropriate position for both levels of Service to adopt in this regard. Jim K put forward a motion that this matter be referred back to groups by GSRs for their consideration.
- As Delegate Jeff presented a letter sent by Class A Trustee Vanda Rousenfell to NEWYPAA re organising PI & CPC activities in Juvenile Justice Centres outside of the General Service structure. As a result of this letter being presented, the consensus of the assembly was that GSRs remind their group consciences that there is a Service structure and any approaches to outside agencies should be made within the appropriate structure.

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

- **Tarro YAH 23rd Birthday – 23rd July at 7.30pm.**
- **City Group 31st Birthday – Sunday 2nd August at 3.00pm.**
- **Trivia Nite – 15th August at 7.30pm at the Uniting Church Hall, Glebe Rd Merewether (where Turning Point Meets).**
- **Mic E (Boatie Mic) has calendars available for purchase to raise funds for Area A's National Convention at Coffs Harbour in 2010. See Mic at a meeting if you want one.**

Assembly closed in Harmony, Unity and Good AA Fellowship with the Serenity Prayer at 3.20pm.

NEXT ASSEMBLY: Saturday, 10th October at 1.30pm at Nelson Bay, venue to be announced (NB: Topics for conference to be voted on at this assembly).

Note that there will be a workshop prior to the next assembly commencing at 11 am.

AREA C CONTACT INFORMATION:

Area Secretary : secretary20@aa-area-c.org

PI/CPC : 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

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 196 JESMOND 2299

24hr Phone: 49641555

Web Address: 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