



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: Saturday 17th April, 2010

Meeting Opened: 1.30 p.m. following morning workshop by Regional Trustee Ollie O and discussion forum on the role of the, Regional Trustee and the relationships between and respective functions of, Area, District and Group. In this discussion Ollie O also discussed the important of the role of Area Registrar and Alternate Officeholders.

Attendance		
Name	Group	Position
Lindsay	Shortland Big Book	Area Secretary
Ollie O	Canberra Speakers	Eastern Region Trustee
Lou C	Wyong Beginners	GSR
Rod	Nelson Bay	GSR
John R *	Gosford Breakfast	AA member
John H *	Woy Woy	GSO Gosford
Jeff J	Tarro YAH	AA member
Ian M	Truth	GSR
Phil G	Branxton	Alt GSR
Mick E	Morisset	Area Chair
Rachael W	Nelson Bay	Area Delegate

* Denotes attendee present for Trustee's workshop and Discussion forum only

Quorum Achieved:

Apologies		
Name	Group	Position
Lenny S	Cessnock	Gaol Coordinator
John C	Tarro	Treasurer
Tom M	Raymond Terrace Monday night	Courts

Traditions Read By: Lou

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Business Arising from the Minutes of the previous Assembly: Nil

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

Moved Accepted :	Lindsay	Seconded :	Mick
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Incoming Correspondence:

• **Emails**

- 11.2.10 – Newcastle Dist Sec. information details for Fisherman Reg’s funeral
- 11.2.10- Area Delegate – Funeral details for Bede from Randwick
- 18.2.10 Newcastle Dist Sec (NDC) – Information about Raymond Terrace Birthday meeting
- 6.3.10 NDC advising of date of District meeting
- 12.3.10 Request to be added to email list from Christine and Geoffrey C
- 12.3.10 Area Delegate requesting assistance for auction at National Conference
- 18.3.10 NDC advising info about Gold Coast Rally
- 18.3.10 NDC advising info for all Europe Young people in AA conf
- 23.3.10 NDC advising information about Malta International Conference
- 24.3.10 Jim K advising of resignation of role as Hospital Coordinator and DCM Newcastle District
- 26.3.10 Area Delegate acknowledging and accepting Jim’s resignation
- 12.4.10 Ian M Event Comm Report
- 12.4.10 Lenny S advising of inability to attend Area Comm meeting
- 15.4.10 Vince D – Lorna House Report
- 16.4.10 Jim K – Hospital Coordinators report and Newcastle DCM report – also advising of John C inability to attend Area Assembly

Mail Inwards

- Box 459 News and Notes from General Service Office of AA
- Darwin AA Roundup 2010 – Flyers received
- Central Coast District of AA minutes of Meetings, 3rd November, 2009, 2nd February, 1010 and 2nd March 2010-04-20
- Newcastle University Family Action Centre – Catalogue
- Australia Post – Invoice for Mail Box.

Outgoing Correspondence:

Emails

- 25.1.10 Vince D advising of bank details for Area
- 31.3.10 Steve Dungog advising of Newcastle Rally details
- 21.4.10 – Tom, Mick E, Ian M, Lenny S and Jim K requests for reports for Area Assembly

Written Correspondence Outwards

- 22.3.10 Letter to all Central Coast Groups advising of Area Assembly at Terrigal

Business Arising: Lindsay moved a vote of thanks to Jim for the past work he has carried out for the area in hospital coordination and in liaising with the Newcastle District. This motion was seconded by Rachael and carried on the acclamation of those present.

Correspondence Moved Accepted :	Lindsay	Seconded :	Mick
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AREA CHAIR REPORT:

Area Chairperson recently attended National Convention at Coffs Harbour. A lot of time has been spent racing which has curtailed the time available to attend meetings across the area. It is intended that in the cooler seasons more groups will be visited.

Business Arising: Nil

AREA DELEGATES REPORT:

Rachael extended her thanks to Ollie O who had driven from Canberra to present the morning workshop on his role as Regional Trustee and the relationship between Area, District and Groups and the expectations that the groups would hold for the Area and District.

Rachael also acknowledged the efforts of Jim K for his work in Area C and expressed her appreciation for his energy, commitment and knowledge.

Rachael identified that Area C is blessed with a healthy network of successful meetings. The major work of the Area is to inform groups of their place within AA as a whole and their potential to enrich their member's experience of sobriety and the recovery of those who still suffer from active alcoholism through coordinated service as part of AA in Australia connected through their District and Area. Rachael indicated there is much work to be done both in Newcastle and on the Central Coast to achieve this kind of connectedness and the healthy function of AA in Area C and promote service to the groups. Rachael indicated there is much work to be done in Newcastle and in the Central Coast.

Rachael formally tended her Delegates 2009 Conference report (this report has been distributed on the existing email network)

Rachel pointed out that Topics for the next Conference need to be organised soon and advised that the date for submission of Topics for the next Conference (2010) is 25th June next. The Area Delegate spoke about the difficulties with topics that are poorly worded and the difficulty that Delegates had in deciphering the intent of topics proposed in 2010. Rachael stressed that if anyone wishes to put forward a topic could they please contact her so she can assist with the wording.

As Area Delegate Rachael reported that the Conference was very complicated and busy event and that she would have appreciated some more experience in AA service at Delegate level before attending the conference. Rachael stressed the need for an Alternate Delegate to be elected early to train now, so this person would be ready in the future.

Discussion took place about the role of the groups in forming topics and the need to act with some haste to facilitate the process in time for conference topics submissions.

Business Arising: Moved that next assembly to be held on 1st Saturday of June be moved to Saturday 15th May, 2010 and be held at Morisset, moved Rachael seconded Mick. This assembly will be devoted to Topics. (Mick will check availability of venue). This assembly to start at 10.30 a.m.

Rachael moved that the Assembly following 15th May be held on Saturday 10th July to start at 10.30 a.m. seconded Mick.

Noted that Rachael intended to invite Barbara Joss (Non AA Trustee) to this assembly (10/7/10), to speak of her role in the information campaign being developed for AA in Australia.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Opening Balance	2790.57
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Receipts

Tarro Big Book	100.00	
Raffle Ncle Rally	112.35	
Freedom Group	35.00	
Total Receipts		247.35

Outgoings

Stamps and postage	62.25
Bank Clearance fee	00.50
2 nd Annual Levy	565.00
1 st Annual Levy	565.00

Total outgoings 1193.25

Closing Balance 1844.67

Business Arising:

Discussion took place about the timing of the payment of the Conference Levy.

Moved Accepted :	Lindsay	Seconded :	Ian
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CENTRAL COAST D.C.M. REPORT:

Minutes of the Central Coast District meetings were received for 3rd November, 2009, 2nd February, 2010 and 2nd February, 2010.

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted :	Lindsay	Seconded :	Rachael
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GREATER NEWCASTLE D.C.M. REPORT:

I have stood down a DCM due to health and other commitments, before I stepped down I reorganised all the districts bank accounts so we have a dedicated Literature account and a check account for the Districts account, at the same time I organised the post out of a information sheet containing a How to change meeting details at National Office, Croydon and District level, also it had all contact and bank account details for the Area, District, Literature and national Office,

The mail out also had as requested by the Nelsons Bay GSR a service structure mud map with a large print copy of the Preamble for the visually challenged on the other side, our twice yearly mail out of meetings list was also part of this mail out.

The Districts search for a new office premises is stalled till the next district meeting when voting on a proposed letter to Groups will happen. I thank everyone who has helped me in the past 18 months as DCM and ask everyone in the Greater Newcastle Districts Groups to consider stepping up into service at this level to keep things functioning.

Jim K Outgoing DCM.

DCM Report	Lindsay	Seconded :	Ian
Moved Accepted :			

Business Arising: Discussion took place about the Area website. Rachael reported that Jim had informed her that the websites domain name has been transferred to Area C. This raises questions about ownership of the Area C website. The only entities that can own websites are board members. Rachael will investigate this issues

Rachael moved that Jim pass all documentation, information and any other things to do with the Area Website, including codes, keys and password to the Area Secretary, on the Area Secretary making such request of him, seconded Mick.

TREATMENT CENTRES & CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES REPORT:

TREATMENT CENTRES

Hospitals Coordinator.

I have stood down a Hospitals Coordinator due to health and other commitments; I will still keep coordinating the 2 Hospitals I coordinate at the District level. I thank everyone for their help in the past couple of years doing this Job.

Lakeview Lodge – Jim K. (Turning Point)

We have been averaging about 8 per presentation usually 3 to 4 women the rest men, we are currently looking for another lady to step up and do some work 1 Thursday Night at 6.00 pm per month, the format of asking the questions out of the is AA for you pamphlet is still working well.

I thank all our presenter’s for their ongoing dedication and commitment, this is the coal face of AA service work and the returns – joy, satisfaction & and a felling of selflessness are far in excess of the time committed to the work.

Thanks

Jim K

Lingard Hospital – James Q. (Turning Point) – No Report

Lorna House – Jim K. (Turning Point)

Lorna House has lengthened the time of the programme so we are only needed to do presentations about every 12 to 14 weeks, I have asked the Mater about starting a meeting their straight after the programme ends each Wednesday to try and help them empty out their programme by showing them AA in action at the meeting level, they seemed very receptive to the idea.

As usual there where about 14 at the presentation with about half being women, the format of asking the questions out of the is AA for you pamphlet is still working well and this is a very rewarding way of doing service any woman interested in being a co presenter at this presentation please contact me.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Cessnock Gaol – Lenny S. (Cessnock Living Sober) – No report

COURTS PROGRAMME REPORT: Tom M. (Raymond Terrace) – No Report

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted :		Seconded :	
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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.

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: Presented by Ian M

*Area C Events Committee
30/03/2010*

Ideas for money raising for the area .

1. Newcastle rally raffle prize money
2. Stockton/ Terrigal any beach family day out.
3. Sponsored walkathon.(Not too far) & finish at a beach or oval.
4. Lostock dam or Barrington tops day out.
5. Bbq / Trivia night.
6. Card night??? Not for the gamblers. / Auction night.
7. Golf day./ mini putt putt.
8. Treasure hunt/ car rally.
9. Camping w/end. Stories by the fireplace.
- 10.Thong throwing contest. Egg & spoon race.
- 11.Cricket match at council oval, maybe even possibly against the central coast.
- 12.Tennis day/night between groups.
- 13.Bowls day / night.
- 14.Mixture of some or all of these; eg, 8,9,4,10,5.

Tracey from Nelson Bay & Chris S (Tarro) have joined in to help in the events committee organising fundraising events. All new helpers welcome especially from the Central Coast.

The idea is to have as much fun as poss & spending as little money as poss. eg by car pooling.**Business Arising: Nil**

PI COMMITTEE REPORT: No Report

Business Arising: nil

AREA WEBSITE REPORT: No Report

Business Arising:

Moved Accepted :		Seconded :	
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GENERAL BUSINESS:

a) Moved Rachael seconded Lindsay that the Area Assembly adopt as its primary goal for 2010 unity, fellowship and service within the Area by facilitating the full participation of all Groups with Area C within AA national structure and that, for such purposes, old enmities, conflicts and divisions be acknowledged and let go – a day at a time - carried

While this item of business is a formal motion it is equally an opportunity for members to exchange positive ideas concerning how the members and groups of Area C might start afresh to work with each other through Group to District to Area to National Conference to carry the message, the programme and the fellowship of AA to the people sick with and recovering from alcoholism in Area C.

b) That in order to facilitate the participation of all groups throughout the Area, and particularly at Area Assemblies, that the Area Committee progressively introduce family friendly and fellowship engendering activities such as barbeques, games and presentations at Area Assemblies moved Rachael W seconded Lindsay – carried

c) Moved that the delegate be reimbursed for expenses for travel to Area, District and National duties subject to budgetary guidelines Moved Rachael seconded Lindsay.

c) Rachael mentioned that it was her intention to carry out a programme of visiting Groups in the Area to encourage participation to try to overcome the Area's "top heavy" dysfunction. Mick E said that Rachael could only do what the Area authorised her to do. Discussion without motion or notice then began about the question of the Area Delegate's responsibilities and the right of an Area Delegate to be reimbursed for all reasonable travelling expenses in visiting Groups in the Area as well as attending Area and District meetings to carry out her role. Rachael said she was sure that the Area Delegate, subject to Area budgetary capacity, was entitled to have such expenses reimbursed, that she had been told of that by the previous Delegate (Jim K) and understood that Area Delegate had been so reimbursed in the past.

When Mick and others present, Ian and Jeff expressed concern about such expenditure and the Area Delegate's entitlement to freely undertake such work and receive such reimbursement, Mick E proposed a motion that the issue be referred back to groups by those present for groups to express their intentions at the next Assembly.

Discussion about this motion saw the voting on motion referred back to groups for groups to express their intentions.

The Area Delegate expressed her great concern that in so referring the issue to groups, when it was merely a budgetary issue, the Area Committee was abrogating its responsibility to make budgetary decisions and that her work as Area Delegate would be stopped and she would have no role if such expense reimbursement was denied. She also said that AA required such Area Delegate expenses to be fully reimbursed so that anyone appointed as Area Delegate whether they be a "Prince" or "Pauper" could carry out the considerable duties of Area Delegate. The Area Delegate also expressed the opinion that given the minute attendance at the Assembly, those present were simply incapable of obtaining a reliable sense of the informed will of Area C on the issue. Furthermore the Area Delegate noted that Area C's own Guidelines were silent on the issue and therefore did not disturb AA National Rules.

Ian and Jeff expressed doubt as to whether the Area could afford to maintain an Area Delegate at all and in particular to send a delegate to the National Conference. Mick E noted that the Area had already made 2 part payments of its 4 part contribution to the cost of the Area Delegate's attendance at the 2010 National Conference. Jeff offered that it may be better to spend that money on the purchase and distribution of literature. Ian said that he was concerned that as most of Area C's funds came from the Newcastle District that region was unfairly subsidising the Area's funding, including the Area Delegate's expenses and maybe would be better off if the Area was wound up and Newcastle as a District could go back to basics and focus on its own developmental and structural problems with all its resources.

Moved Mick E, that the issue of the reimbursement of the Area Delegate's expenses be raised with and clarified by Group conscience and reported back to the next Assembly. Seconded Lindsay

d) A document entitled "Delegates Hand Over" dealing with the role of the Area Delegate proposed Jim K to be incorporated into Area Guidelines did not receive the support necessary to be considered.

e) A document was considered, as submitted by Jim K, related to building “Arches” with the 12 Steps. Moved Lindsay that it be accepted for an AA pamphlet. Seconded Mick. This document will be presented at the next Area Assembly for its consideration for inclusion as a Topic for the Conference. The document will again be distributed with these minutes for the information of Groups.

Nominations for and election to the vacant Area C Committee Officers are called:

- **Alternate Delegate**
- **PI/CPC Coordinator**
- **Hospitals Coordinator**
- **Website Coordinator**
- **Area Registrar**

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

Gold Coast Rally: April 30 - May 3, 2010 at Mermaid Beach

Central Coast Rally: 7th - 9th May 2010

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

NEXT ASSEMBLY: Saturday 15th May 10.30 a.m. – Venue to be confirmed

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