



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

Copies of all Area C Minutes available in Area C forum under heading: Area C
(Central Coast, Lower Hunter and Newcastle)

Date: 20/01/2007

Meeting Opened: 2.00pm

Attendance: Jim K – Freedom (Delegate)

Naomi – Grassroots (Chair)

Jeff J – Tarro (Secretary)

Mick E – Tarro (Treasurer)

Steve J – EMBB (P.I.)

Andy A – Civic (GSR)

John C – Freedom (GSR)

Ian M – Truth (GSR)

Cornelius – Tarro (Member)

Michael – Turning Pt (Member)

Keith – Pelican (Member)

James Q – RTCE Steps
(Member)

Apologies: Grant S - EMBB (GSR)

Lenny S – Cessnock Step's
(GSR)

Julie – GSFD Women's (GSR)

Traditions Read By: Ian M – Truth

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report: Connie has had to resign due to family commitments.

Election Of Officers: Outgoing:

Secretary: Connie – Women's

Chairperson: Jeff J – Tarro

Treasurer: Mark – EMBB

Registrar: Nil

P.I. Coordinator: John C

Incoming:

Jeff J – Tarro (unanimous)

Naomi - Grassroots (unanimous)

Mick E – Tarro (unanimous)

Steve J – East Maitland BB
(Unanimous)

Minutes of previous month read by incoming Secretary.

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted : Ian M - Truth

Seconded : Andy A – Civic

CORRESPONDENCE

INWARD:

1. Letter & Certificate of appreciation from the CATCH Expo (community awareness – Wyong Tafe)
2. News letter from the AA Grapevine – America
3. News letter from GSO New York
4. News letter from Box 459 New York
5. Letter from Cessnock Living Sober Group - \$25.00 Donation
6. Letter from GSO Australia – re Updating AA meeting details – Simply go to www.aa.org.au and look for big blue button titled “update meetings list” click on it and fill in the details. This will immediately notify GSO to update the list.
7. Pamphlet - Loners International Meeting Australia.

OUTWARD:

Letters sent to Bishops of both the Catholic and Anglican Churches

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted : Ian M - Truth

Seconded : Andy A – Civic

AREA CHAIR REPORT:

I would like to thank Jim K for the wonderful job he has done in representing us at the National Conference and also for the amount of work and effort he has put into Area C in general.

From implementing the P.I. to visiting the amount of AA groups he has visited, both in the Valley and the Central Coast, simply to inform them there is an Area available to them and with a message of Unity. Well done Jim.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the other members that have taken time from their busy schedules to serve the AA community in Area C, people like:

Tom M – RTCE (Courts)

Andy A – Civic (Kirkwood House)

Kevin – Windale (Lakeview)

Lenny S – Cessnock living Sober (Goals)

James Q – RTCE Steps (Linguard)

All the members that supported them!

Thank You & God Bless!

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted : Andy A – Civic

Seconded : Mick E – Tarro

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report 20/1/2007

Incoming Money:

Donations:

1. Freedom Group	\$ 90.00
2. Swansea Women's	\$300.00
3. Bolton Point	\$ 20.00
4. Anonymous Member	\$ 50.00
5. Woy Woy Wednesday	\$ 10.00

Total Donations	\$470.00
------------------------	-----------------

Incoming from Literature:

1. Freedom Group	\$ 27.60
------------------	----------

Total Incoming Money	\$497.60
-----------------------------	-----------------

Outgoing Money:

1. Invoice National Office Literature	\$131.31
2. Printing & Distributing Minutes	\$150.00
3. Total Web Site Fees (Two Checks - \$118.80, \$16.95)	\$135.75
4. Phone Connection	\$ 59.00

Total Outgoing	\$476.06
-----------------------	-----------------

Final Balance	\$1091.36
----------------------	------------------

Projected expenses for 2007.

1. Conference Levy was \$2045 Now:		\$2,100.00
2. Distribution of Minutes per assembly	\$200 X 4	\$ 800.00
3. Web Site Fees		\$ 135.75
4. Courts Program		\$ 100.00
5. Phone running expenses		\$ 250.00
6. Post Box Rental		\$ 95.00
7. Other Programs (PI, Jails, Hospitals-Rehabs)		\$ 150.00

Total Projected Expenses 2007	\$3,900.75
--------------------------------------	-------------------

Current Shortfall on Projected Area C Running Costs 2007	\$2,809.39
---	-------------------

Moved Accepted :

Seconded :

Area Delegates Report: Jim K

Recently at Area Cs Rally it was suggested to myself (Jim K) and Area Cs alternate Delegate Jeff J by our Regional Trustee, that we as an Area allow the Central Coast to have their own Area, splitting Area C into two parts Newcastle Lower Hunter and the Central Coast.

Jeff J and I agreed that the Central Coast should have its own Area when the time is right if all Central Coast Groups want this, but as a solution to our current problems it is but one solution and by a far cry not the best solution.

The solution to the Brisbane Waters Districts refusal to do service by the Guidelines of splitting Area C in two would if we as an Area supported it send the wrong message to all Groups, Districts and Areas in Australia for these reasons:

1. I was taught that the I am Responsible Banner also meant:
 - a. That I am Responsible to do the Steps and thus be able to actively fulfil Traditions 1 Unity requirement, Traditions 11 Attraction requirement by people being attracted to the New me, and Tradition 12s Principals before personalities while adhering to Step 12s Practice these Principles in all our Affairs.
 - b. That when I do service I am responsible to do my service by the 12 Traditions, 12 concepts and the AA Service Manual.
 - c. That I am then responsible to ensure that any AA Service entity that I do Service with, does the same.
2. Brisbane Waters Districts as it is now operating, could not support a Delegate and as an Area we would not be setting a good example by supporting the formation of a non functioning Area.
3. As an Area we could only support the spitting of Area C into two Functioning Areas if it came from Central Coast Groups and Districts working from within Area C.
4. Our theme for this years conference is Positive Attitude, Positive Message, it is an appropriate theme in a time of uncertainty caused by mixed messages. How can we have a positive attitude if we don't give Groups and Districts a positive message in Service that while they can do their service with any Area it is strongly suggested that they do any service within the service structure guidelines.
5. If we reward failure to work within the service structure guidelines in anyway we are not giving a positive message.
6. We as an Area attended conference this year, so can be considered a fully functioning Area, so all reasons the Brisbane Waters District had for joining Area E are not valid anymore.
7. As an Area the ability to function to our full potential can only be met if all Groups and Districts within our boundaries support their Area. As Area C is supporting all parts of the Area by hold it's Area Assemblies throughout the whole Area.
8. The traditions start with Unity and end with Principals before personalities, I don't see how we can be living our program if we don't encourage participation within the guidelines instead of reward for the Non practising of Unity and the Non Practising of these Principles.

To me having Area C functioning to its full potential as an Area, with working Districts in Newcastle lower Hunter and Central Coast, before we look at splitting the Area into two functioning Areas is a much better option it has taken 20 years to bring Area C back up as a functioning Area. Why would you look at splitting Area C until it is functioning at its full potential.

At the moment I am going around groups in the Area getting a sobriety date register together and

finding out the issues currently affecting Groups in our Area. Our Rally was a great experience but lost money this year. We will be having rally committee, events committee and PI committee meetings in the week proceeding this assembly with about 20 participants so I think we will have great working committee's this year.

2006 Australian National Conference Report.

Prepared By: Jim K Area Delegate Area C Eastern Region Panel #48.

Douglas Area B Central Region panel #46 in his leaving address to conference described how he felt at his first year at conference as; A kid that had snuck into the pictures and spent the whole first year waiting for the ushers to find him and kick him out.

Howard Area E Eastern Region panel #46 in his leaving address to conference said if you want to know how a Group Conscious should be run become an Area Delegate attend conference and what you learn about how the Australian National Group Conscious is run will amaze you.

The toughest and most knowledgeable last term Delegates at conference were crying in their farewell addresses because this was their last chance to experience the emotional rollercoaster come most learning, teaching, growing experience they and I have ever experienced: The National Group Conscious of Australia known as The Australian Conference.

I selected a seat on the first day and God was playing his part because Tony V Area C North Eastern Region panel #45 was in the seat next to me and he answered all my questions and guided me through the difficulties of the 4 days of conference.

About now if you are like me on the first day you will be asking what does panel #46, #45 mean; my title is Jim K Area C Eastern Region panel #48:

Name: Jim King

Area C: The area letter has to do with the order that the area became active with in the service structure.

Eastern Region: is equivalent to NSW/ACT

Panel #48 is the year number of your first conference. This year is the 48th Conference so I am panel #48

By now you are probable wondering about the anomaly of Tony V North Eastern Region panel #45. Tony's first year at conference was as an Alternate Delegate completing the last year of another delegates term, allowing him four years at conference instead of the 3 year maximum for Area Delegates attending conference, so now you will see what I meant about God playing his part, a first time delegate attending from an area that has not had a delegate for 22 years (me) sitting next to the most experienced Delegate at conference.

The necessity of the 3 year conference term was shown with panel #47s Liza P Area C Southern Region panel #47, Roger C Area B Southern Region panel #47 and Chris W Area A Central Region panel #47 showing us panel #48ers that not only the panel #46 and #45s had and or were allowed opinions till by the end of conference you were hearing from all panels in topic and floor motion discussions.

In typical AA fashion as much progress (in discussions) was made over coffee and meals, the Saturday is the day all Topics are discussed by all Delegates, Trustees and National Office Staff we worked through till about 10 pm that night and still had about 2 hours worth of work to do which we fitted in on the Sunday.

This was the day when more information became available in the discussions with the panel #46s and #45s 3 years of conference growth in knowledge helping us pickup stuff that would have been missed but for their experiences, this experience was also reflected by the trustees and Office staffs. If we did not have 3rd year Delegates present it might have been easy for the Boards experience and the Delegates inexperience to allow the Board to dominate conference. (Not that this was ever tried at this conference).

I thank my work on the 3rd, 8th and 9th steps for allowing me to not be governed by fear and panic attacks and actually be a contributing delegate at this conference (after you have had to do the amends steps it takes a lot to put you into a panic attack everything seems less frightening after that). On my first day I started doing something that helped me through the whole conference, on the train down I read through all I had to do that day till I was totally familiar with it, each morning about 5 am I did the same thing going over all that my comities or all delegates would be covering that day.

This conference was a great experience that I would recommend that every member would benefit from experiencing, would I recommend Area C at this time in its emergence back into service at this level keep sending delegates at a cost of \$2045 per year the answer is yes but the reality is no funding it would be near imposible, with only a one Group on the Central Coast supporting Area C coupled with the fact we have a responsibility to keep funding our current work.

This leaves Area C in a position were we have to look at fundraising at a level we have not experienced before if we are to achieve this, is this possible yes will we at current participation levels be able to achieve this in all honesty no.

The theme for this years conference was singleness of purpose, with one of the topics being about a singleness of purpose statement, this meant that the theme was a part of the conference but not an integral part, for that to be a reality at the start of the conference you would need a workshop where all delegates shared on the conference theme for two minutes.

The conference started Thursday with a Delegates Only Meeting where we got to know each other and learned about the processes that would be used at conference; this is the only time that delegates exclusively meet as a group during the whole conference and is the most important meeting of the conference because of that fact it allows the 2nd and 3rd year delegates to prepare the new delegates for the work to come.

Friday is the comity day were every delegate sits on 3 comities that recommend actions on topics to conference so on Saturday in a lot of cases when all delegates and trusties are present a lot of time is saved with discussion because the prose and cons have already been considered at comity level. The first decision at comity is how the comity would decide and Topics before it by: a simple majority, a substantial majority 2/3 or more, for the chairperson to take before conference on Saturday as recommendations or in some cases it is sent back to conference with no recommendation for full conference discussion and decision.

Saturday is the day when all delegates and trustees are present at the discussion of all topics and is the day that the minority voice concept comes into operation, there was one topic that passed by about a 2/3 majority and when all the minority voices had talked passed by 2/3 majority the other way. This is the day the comity chairperson puts the comity recommendation to the full conference all delegates and board members for discussion, possible amendment then to a vote, all decisions that are passed by a 1/2 to 2/3 majority are suggestions to the board, decisions that are passed 2/3 majority are taken as directives to the board.

Next Conference theme: What Tom Said!! - "Positive Attitude, Positive Message"

Yours in Service

Jim K

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted : Ian M – Truth

Seconded : John C – Freedom

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

LAKE MACQUARIE DISTRICT

Not Functioning due to sickness.

Business Arising:

Moved Accepted :

Seconded :

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT

During the above period the District and the members Have been fairly quiet--I myself and several GSRs have been occupied with other matters other than AA which is a bad sign for the District--This has luckily been realised and will be rectified in the future

The Bank Balance is: \$325.94

The Opening Balance was: \$486.89

Withdrawals for Literature for Groups & District Total: \$ 266.95

Deposits Donations from various Groups: \$106.00

Balance: \$325.94.

Hopefully other groups will join the current member Groups in helping keep our District Functioning to its full potential.

Yours in Service

Andy. A: DCM

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted : Ian M – Truth

Seconded : John C – Freedom

LOWER HUNTER & PORT STEPHENS DISTRICT

AREA C Meeting (20th January)

District Committee Member Report 20/01/2007

1....Literature sales via District from National Office are strong. Groups purchasing literature since last area meeting are; Kurri Steps, EMBBS, Truth group, Medowie, Raymond Terrace Monday night & Cessnock Steps.

2....Maitland Mercury has been approached again re putting local group meeting times & contact no.s into the paper on a weekly basis. They are willing to help but don't return my phone calls. Also a few groups have been approached about stories & a photo (showing no faces) by me for the paper & as yet no positive replies except Truth group & Cessnock Steps. Unfortunately the paper won't go out their regular hours to get the necessary photo.

3....Lennie S & a few other members are doing their best at going to Gaol meetings & The Glenn (rehab) meetings. Volunteer numbers are increasing, however they could always use a little more help. So if you would like to give it a try, please contact Lennie. Many thanks to those who have picked up the ball.

4.New meeting at Kurri Kurri (As Bill Sees It) on Thursday is going well & being well attended with an average of about 8 - 9 people each week.

5....District account balance \$1083.81. Last 3 months transactions listed below.

Transaction List				
Account		973485905 Club Account		
Date Range		The last 3 months		
Start Date		18/10/2006 End Date 17/01/2007		
Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
19/10/2006	TOM MULLEY		\$135.00	\$1,052.95
07/11/2006	CHQ-590012-50 PRESENTED	\$111.00		\$941.95
10/11/2006	MULLEY T		\$18.00	\$959.95
13/11/2006	ALCOHOLICS ANON		\$86.90	\$1,046.85
14/11/2006	CHQ-590013-60 PRESENTED	\$74.24		\$972.61
04/12/2006	EMBBS		\$70.00	\$1,042.61
08/12/2006	CHQ-590014-70 PRESENTED	\$35.75		\$1,006.86
18/12/2006	TRUTH		\$52.40	\$1,059.26
19/12/2006	E.M.B.B.S.		\$77.80	\$1,137.06
20/12/2006	MEDOWIE		\$10.00	\$1,147.06
09/01/2007	CHQ-590015-80 PRESENTED	\$114.99		\$1,032.07
11/01/2007	TRUTH		\$79.00	\$1,111.07
11/01/2007	KURRI		\$103.40	\$1,214.47
15/01/2007	CESSNOCK		\$30.00	\$1,244.47
16/01/2007	CHQ- 59001690 PRESENTED	\$160.66		\$1,083.81

Yours in Service

Ian M – DCM

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted : Mick E – Tarro

Seconded : Andy A - Civic

INSTITUTIONS REPORT

DETOXES / TREATMENT CENTRES

Kirkwood House:

Kirkwood House-October-December 2006

	Men	Women	Total
October	8	4	12
November	8	5	13
December	12	4	16

There has been a good response from the Hospital & the Patients in the past 3 months, everyone has been co-operative, Michael from EMBB has joined the other members Kevin F & Karl & myself on the roster--welcome Michael -more members are required (mainly female) as they can relate to the female patients--Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2007 Andy.a Co-Ordinator
Lakeview Lodge:

LAKEVIEW LODGE MONTHLY REPORT.

MONTHS OF OCT. NOV. DEC 2006

	MEN	WOMEN	ALCOHOL	DRUGS
OCTOBER	15	24	21	18
NOVEMBER	21	18	17	22
DECEMBER	15	14	16	13

All meetings for the period were held except for the period between Christmas and New Year when they closed for a week and a half.

During October, the Detox limited its intake to Women only for one week on a trial basis. The Sister-in-charge requested us to have some ladies attend the Thursday meeting if possible and, with the help of Jim K(area rep) we were able to send Lyndle (freedom) and Judy (Belmont) to the meeting with Kevin F (Irish). The trial was a raging success and the Hospital were extremely happy with our extended participation. The ladies have attended two other normal meetings since and we are looking forward to them continuing with us. My sincere thanks to Lyndle and Judy as well as Kevin F, who has continued to support us right throughout the year despite some health problems and he deserves our utmost gratitude.

Kevin S

Lingard Hospital:

Lingard Hospital Report – 20th January 2007

In the past three months our attendance at the Woodlands Unit at Lingard Hospital has been intermittent, largely due to my failure to effectively coordinate the members who have been undertaking this 12th step work.

I attended Lingard Hospital on the 18th of January to speak to the clients there and to meet with the care support staff regarding our visits to the hospital. The meeting with the staff lasted for over an hour, during which we discussed the nature of alcoholism, how AA can help those clients with alcohol problems and the benefit they saw from our visits for these clients. We also discussed how we could reorganize our activities to be of more benefit.

In terms of our visits, the staff gave an overwhelmingly positive response, both in the conduct of our members and the benefits for their clients that they saw in our visits. I am happy to say that despite a somewhat irregular presence at Lingard in the past few months, the staff were still extremely keen to have us maintain our visits. Staff also indicated that the feedback they have received from clients regarding our visits has also been predominantly positive.

In terms of reviewing our activities at Lingard, the following matters were raised and discussed:

1. The frequency and timing of our visits. Part of the problem with maintaining a regular visiting schedule at Lingard has been due to making our visits fortnightly. This was manageable while we had a fully active roster of members, but due to withdrawals and life happening not every member was available or able to attend when rostered. This was compounded by my inability to effectively manage these changes. The staff indicated that as the average length of stay for clients was between 3 and 5 weeks, fortnightly visits were probably more than was needed. They suggested that a visit from us once a month would be the most effective arrangement.

The other major problem with our visiting schedule has been out attendance on Saturday mornings. Many of the clients take weekend leave, and as a result attendance has been sporadic: on several occasions there were no clients in residence so we did not attend and on others only 1 or 2 clients came to hear us. The staff said that they would be happy for us to visit after dinner on week-nights, between 6 and 8pm. The exact day for our visits would need to be determined in consultation with those members willing to be actively involved in visits to Lingard, but at first glance a Tuesday or Wednesday evening would be the preferred option.

2. I also raised the possibility of extending our service to Lingard clients by offering them the option of direct 1 on 1 12th step calls. The staff were very enthusiastic about this possibility. The consensus was that the staff would gladly make their clients aware that if they wanted to talk to someone about their drinking problem, they could arrange for an AA member to come and talk to them. I will act as the point of contact for the staff to request a 12th step call to the hospital.

These changes will need to be implemented in consultation with those members who will be carrying out the work to ensure that we can maintain a stable visiting schedule and have members available to undertake 12th step work when requested. As soon as possible I will be calling a Lingard committee meeting to give those members wishing to be involved the opportunity to participate in the arrangements for our ongoing work at Lingard Hospital, and to make them aware of the requirements and obligations involved in this work.

I can happily report that in the past 12 months we have forged an incredibly positive relationship with the care support staff in the Woodlands unit at Lingard Hospital, and they are very enthusiastic in helping us to carry the message to their clients with drinking problems. I hope that those members who have been active in this work will be willing to continue, and that others will be willing to step forward and contribute to carrying the message to the next sick & suffering alcoholic.

In conclusion, I would like to briefly relate something of the personal benefits I have received from my experiences in service and 12th step work. I wrote the following passage immediately following my meeting with the staff from the Woodlands Unit at Lingard:

“There is an unassailable joy and sense of fulfillment that comes from serving God in the manner he demands, and in embracing the truth of one’s self in that service. In this service is God’s grace manifested and utilized, the fruits of which are an opening of the mind to the Light of that which is of God and a perception of the world through this Light which reveals all things to be beautiful, and all life to be a manifestation of that which is God ... a deep and sincere gratitude for all of God’s creation and an appreciation of the beauty present in each and every one of God’s creatures, combined with a deep sense of unity with them all.”

I remind every member that, as it states in the 12 & 12, 12th step work is not the price we pay for our recovery or the condition on which it rests. 12th step work is our reward, and that it is by engaging in 12th step work and service that we receive in full measure that which is promised to us in the Big Book.

Yours in fellowship and love,

James Q - Lingard Hospital coordinator

GAOLS / DETENTION CENTRES.

Cessnock Gaol:

Cessnock Gaol Roster is back on again. We have had to 2 meetings this year with members from Terrigal Beach, Cessnock Steps, East Maitland Big Book and Cessnock Living sober attending. Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held separately.

6. That we have guidelines for speakers, speaking in a Public Information forum ie;
Public Speaking – Institutions – Goals.

- a. Outlining what is appropriate to share in these venues.
- b. What emotions to talk about
- c. How alcohol affected your family – friends – workplace.
- d. Your thinking and dreaming
- e. Expectations of the institutions of AA members (swearing etc)

Proposed: Jim K Seconded: Ian M

Discussed and decided that a committee consisting of all the coordinators of the institutions, goals, P.I. and executive, draw up these guidelines. Voted Unanimously.

7. Roster to be drawn up in regards to visiting groups in the Newcastle Lower Hunter and the Central Coast. A letter will request if the Area delegate or an Area representative can attend their next group conscience to talk about the importance of group participation in general service to AA's survival.

Proposed: Jim K Seconded: Jeff J

Discussed and decided to hand to executive committee. Voted Unanimously

8. Topics required for workshops this year at Area C assemblies.

Proposed Jim K Seconded: Jeff J

Executive committee to sort out – Voted for Unanimously

9. Meeting venues for Area assemblies and Area executive meetings for the year

Proposed: Jim K Seconded: Ian M

Executive committee to sort out – Voted for Unanimously.

10. We have obtained a phone number for feedback from our Public Information campaign **0249 641 555** this will be placed on our P.I. brochures and pamphlets and will assist us with our communication and effectiveness of informing the community.

11. We also require some members who are willing to have this number diverted to them, there will be some requirements placed on these people to report back to the appropriate coordinator's to ensure a smooth operation.

12. The placing of the Area's bank account details in the Minutes for Donations.

Proposed: Jim K Seconded: Jeff J Voting: Unanimous

13. The placing of the email address for electronic literature orders in Area minutes

Proposed: Jim K Seconded: Andy A Voted Unanimously.

14. That we send a letter to all the groups in Area C informing them that the minutes are available to them on the internet on www.aa-area-c.org or that they can request them by mail, if they send a mailing address, to P.O. Box 196 Jesmond 2299 NSW. or they can contact the secretary on 02 49641 555 or Mobile 0404 817 369. With this letter we will also send five (5) meetings list's to each group.

