



May Monthly Meeting

Date: 09/05 /2009

Venue: Salvation Army Hall – Cumberland St Cessnock

Meeting Commenced: 2.30pm

Traditions Read by: Lindsay – Shortland BBS

G.S.R. Present:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ian M – Truth (Treas & Lit) | 2. Karen - Cessnock |
| 3. Jeff J – Tarro Y.A.H. (Sec & Phone) | 4. Lorraine – Nelson Bay |
| 5. Lindsay – Shortland BBS (Alt) | 6. Harry – Nelson Bay (Alt) |
| 7. James Q – Turning Pt (Sec Area) | 8. John C – Tarro BBS (Treas Area) |
| 9. Jim K – Turning Pt (D.C.M.) | 10. Mick – Morisset |
| 11. Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober | 12. Christine – Shortland BBS |

Apologies:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Mick E – Morisset | 2. Arron – Tarro YAH |
| 3. Michael H – Kurri Steps | |

AA Members:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| 1. Brian – Cessnock Steps | 2. |
|---------------------------|----|

Secretary Report:

Jeff J – Tarro YAH

Ask that the minutes of Previous GND meeting accepted as read: Carried.

Business Arising: Nil

Incoming Correspondence:

Telstra Phone Bills – Box 459 – A.A. Around Australia – GSO Brown Bag Appeal.

Incoming Emails:

1. Proposal for a National CSO Forum along the lines of the National PI/CPC and T/CF forums be established.
2. Resignation of PI position from Michael H – Kurri Steps.
3. 12 Step call from National Office for a Gentleman in the Hunter Valley.
4. Erik Braunitzer from www.duifoundation.org wanting to make us a partner in their website.

Outgoing Correspondence - Emails:

1. My District is putting a Topic to conference this year about a meeting between all C.S.O's and the General Service Conference.
So it could all happen together sounds like a great idea.
Regards Jim.
2. Request for Wallsend Hospital Office details from Michael H for PI Liaison, by DCM.

Report from Correspondence:

Passed phone bills on to Treasurer of GND.
 12 Step call passed to Lenny S – Cessnock L/S
 Erik Braunitzer from www.duifoundation.org passed to General Business for discussion.

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted: Lenny S – Cessnock L/S **Seconded:** Ian M - Truth

G.N.D Treasurers Report: Ian M – Truth

Balance as at 01/04/2009.....\$2,542.46

Incoming:

Donation.....\$ 40.00

Balance..... \$2,582.46

Outgoing:

Telstra A/C.....\$ 33.33

Current Balance.....\$2,549.13

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted: Harry – Nelson Bay **Seconded:** Mick - Morisset

District Committee Members Report:

Jim K – Turning Pt

Jeff J was contacted by a Nelson Bay AA Member, re suspected predatory behavior by another member and asked if we could recommend a course of action, I was contacted by Jeff and I had some AA Australia Board recommended guidelines that I thought might clarify the situation somewhat and give a course of action for the Group, I presented this information to members of the Nelson Bay Group.

This course of action was presented at the Group Conscience and by going through the required process as outlined in the guidelines the problem was subsequently resolved, in an appropriate manner, through the Group Conscience.

I have approached the Lord Mayor of Newcastle and asked if he could do anything for us in the way of Office space for a District Service office.

I informed his assistant that we would like enough space for meetings so that the rent from the meetings could help subsidize our rent for the office space.

I was asked how we are funded and said we are only allowed by our traditions to be self funded, but we could accept subsidized rent because other entities are given this by council so we can accept it to. We have not received any replies yet, so I am patiently waiting for them before starting a Group Visit schedule.

I have done some general house keeping duties as D.C.M and visited some Groups; in the next 2 months will be starting to visit all Greater Newcastle Groups to talk to them about:

1. The office.
2. Deliver a letter from the national Office to Groups.
3. Deliver a laminated A4 sheet with contact details for:
 - a. National office - Area C - Greater Newcastle District
 - b. Croydon for Revivers.
 - c. Bank account details for donations of Area C, District & National Office.
 - d. Who and how to supply change of Group Contact person's address.
4. Talk to Groups about what they are doing in the community around their Groups.
 - a. Police Stations
 - b. Libraries
 - c. Doctors
 - d. Churches + Others.

Yours in Service - District Committee member

**Literature Report:
District Literature Account Transactions**

Ian M – Truth

Transaction Search Results				
Account	973485905 Club Account			
Date Range	For a specified range			
Start Date	14/03/2009	End Date	05/05/2009	
Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
01/04/2009	CESSNOCK STEPS		\$24.80	\$627.03
20/04/2009	MORRISSET GROUP		\$100.00	\$727.03
20/04/2009	CESSNOCK STEPS		\$47.60	\$774.63
20/04/2009	TRUTH		\$44.20	\$818.83
29/04/2009	DONATION		\$10.00	\$828.83

Transaction searches are for information only and should not be used for statement purposes.
 Press "New Search" to enter further search criteria, "Previous Page" to show the previous page of transactions, "Next Page" to show the next page of transactions, "My Accounts" to return to the Accounts page, "Export" to export all of the matching transactions, or "Print" to print this page.

With the total selling price value of all cards, pamphlets, books & banners in stock being **\$1,847.13** + Bank **\$828.83** we have a total value of **\$2,675.96 @ 05/05/2009**.

P.I. Coordinator: Michael H – Kurri Steps

Michael has resigned as the PI coordinator due to other commitments.
 The GND would like to thank Michael for his time as our PI Coordinator.

Harry from the Nelson Bay group volunteered for the position and was voted in unanimously. Congratulations on your new position.

Area C Web Site Report 9-5-2009

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Apr 2009	461	700	2202	2215	46.81 MB
May 2009	87	102	353	357	7.78 MB

In these unique visits means a visitor that visits the Web site for the first time that day. So this shows that we have people returning to the site who have used it that day knowing they will find what they are looking for because Number of visits is double unique visits and Pages and Hits are way up too showing that people navigate around the site viewing different pages.

Search Engine Statistics for May show 28 Hits of 357 Hits were from Search Engine's showing that our PI with Posters with our web address on them is a success.

Newcastle Web Site

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2009	87	209	332	332	2.31 MB
Feb 2009	82	215	1260	1351	42.84 MB
Mar 2009	67	139	868	868	26.69 MB
Apr 2009	65	111	271	274	5.72 MB
May 2009	16	18	56	56	473.90 KB
Total	317	692	2787	2881	78.01 MB

Links from an Internet Search Engine

3 different referring search engines	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Google	5	62.5 %	5	62.5 %
Yahoo!	2	25 %	2	25 %
AltaVista	1	12.5 %	1	12.5 %

Newcastle Web Site has a Percentage of hit from Search Engines when Unique Visitors for May is compared to Search Engine hits also showing that our PI with Posters using the Area Web Site address is working for us.

Hospital Coordinators Reports:

Lakeview Detox Unit:

Jim K – Turning Pt

Three of the Lakeview presenter's were at this district meeting and all agreed that the District Hospital presentation guidelines are working well, 2 of the presenters had worked under the old way of presenting and at the old time and agreed that the new time was a much better time than when we used to do the presentations and the new guidelines got the patients more involved.

We are averaging 10 to 12 patients and 2/3 are alkies, the Lakeview staff seem to be very pleased with the new arrangements as well. I thank the 2 ladies (Naomi C and Kirra Civic meeting) that are presenting, they are doing a great job and their presence is one of the changes that the staff are most pleased with.

Lou from the Wyong Beginners is doing a great job as he has for the last 2 years his new partner on the 3rd week of the month; Mick E did a great job at his first presentation. John and Naomi C are settling in and their presentations are getting better each time they attend. Lindsay SBBS Group and Lenny Grass Roots Group did a great job at their first presentation 2 weeks ago they only present on the 5th week of the month.

I Thank Kirra from the Civic Group for her excellent presentation with me on the 4th week of the month.

Yours in Service

Lorna House Detox Unit:**Jim K – Turning Pt**

Lorna House has not had a presentation by District since the last report, we are due to present again on the 13-5-2009 so we will report on the presentation at the next District meeting.

Kirkwood House:**Michael H – Kurri Steps**

Kirkwood has seen over the last month an increase in the participants attending, that being around 10 at a session. I have noticed there is a greater rate of alcohol rehabilitation than drugs this being around the 80/20% ratio.

The facility will be moving to the new Martyr Hospital Complex in early June and the staff have asked for A.A. to continue.

Lingard Hospital:**James Q – Turning Pt**

Visits to the Woodlands Ward at Lingard are conducted fortnightly on Tuesdays at 6.30 pm. Presently myself and Kiera and Jane are attending. Patients attend our presentation on a voluntary basis, and on their own assessment of whether they have a problem with alcohol. The format is fairly fluid depending on numbers and who attends (it is not uncommon for someone staying at Lingard for several months to attend 2 or 3 presentations, or for people with previous experience of AA to be patients at Lingard) so we tend to adjust them to the needs and experience of those patients attending. The usual format is to share our stories, talk about how AA can help and what AA meetings entail, as well as answer any questions about alcoholism or AA. We don't normally go through the 12 questions in "Is AA for You?" because they are available on the ward and staff gives each patient with alcohol problems a copy of this pamphlet.

Since returning to the fortnightly visiting schedule we have had 1 to 3 patients attending each visit. In the last month we have had 2 female patients attend the Turning Point meeting on Saturday evenings as a direct result of our visits to Lingard. I also get periodic calls from the nursing staff of Woodlands Ward for individual 12th step calls and seeking AA sponsors for patients. Most of these calls relate to female patients, and it would be beneficial to have a roster of women members who are willing to make themselves available for 12th step calls and sponsorship of new female members coming through Lingard.

Yours in love and service,

Gaols Coordinator:**Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober****Cessnock N.S.W. Gaol Meetings – May 2009****Minimum Security:** 6/5 – Ian & Jim = 4 Inmates**Members** – Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober Ian – Rutherford Jim – Turning Point**Numbers of meetings held = 2****Total Inmate Attendances for month = 8**

Maximum Security: 4/5 – John R, David, Lenny = 10

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

Numbers of meetings held = 2

Total Inmate Attendances for month = 24

Protection Wing: 4/5 – John R, David, Lenny = 3

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

Numbers of meetings held = 2

Total Inmate Attendances for month = 9

Due to industrial action and staff shortages, the Gaol was locked down on 3 occasions. This may change in the near future do to the gaol not being privatized. The Minimum meeting will remain on a Wednesday afternoon for the time being.

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 1st week – Ken, Brian and Yvonne etc. If this is unsatisfactory for you, let me know on 0438-299320 or 02-40160003.

Courts Coordinator:

Tom M – Raymond Terrace

At Newcastle the Magistrate does not give referrals, BUT if I think, from what the charge is, & the client's previous record, I ask the solicitor or Barrister if I can talk to their client. Most times the answer is yes if their legal representative thinks there is an area I am able to assist.

Some Solicitors or Barristers seek me out to talk to their clients before they appear, or some even ring me at home or on the mobile to talk to their clients even before they appear in court. They even suggest to their clients that they NEED to go to AA.

The officer from the Salvation Army also assists me when he talks to people in court or if its not a list day Tuesday, I have give the Salvation Army officer some AA wallets, which he gives to people if there is an alcohol problem. The court officer also has some of my AA cards, as have the traffic offender's people.

I average 3 clients every Tuesday.

Regards Vince D – Shortland BBS

24hr Help Line Report:

Jeff J – Tarro YAH

We have again scaped through with all positions being filled, we still have some members doubling up, so a few more volunteers would be very welcome.

A big thanks, to all the members on the 24hr helpline, phone roster.

We are also looking for 12 step workers willing to do 12 step work in our District, especially women to do 12 step work for new women.

Events Committee Coordinator: Vacant

No Report

Rally Committee Coordinators: Kirra and James

No Report

G.S.R. Reports:

Cessnock Living Sober: Lenny S

We are averaging 12 AA members per meeting with even amounts of men and women. We have regular group consciences and our members are serving on the Phone Roster – Gaol Roster and attend the Glenn Rehab. Holding positions in Service structure.

Cessnock Steps: Brian

We are averaging 10 AA members per meeting with approx 2 men to 1 woman. Our members do service on the Phone Roster – Gaol Roster and attend the Glenn. We are active in the placing of PI pamphlets in the Cessnock Area. We have also started a Big Book Study Group 6pm – 7pm Tuesday.

Morisset:

We are averaging 45 AA members per meeting. We have regular group consciences, which will now be held monthly. We are now able to support the District and the Area financially. Our members do their service with Rehabs and PI in the Morisset area. Our members also hold positions in the Service structure.

Nelson Bay: Lorraine

We are averaging 25 AA members per meeting to our Friday night group and 10 AA members to our Tuesday night group. Our members do their service with PI in the Nelson Bay area. We also have a member holding position in the service structure.

Shortland BBS: Chris

We are averaging 20 AA members per meeting with predominantly male attendance. Our members do service in the Court program – Phone Roster - Detox Centres and Hospitals.

Tarro BBS: John C

We average 20 AA members per meeting with approximately 14 males 6 females. We have regular group consciences meetings (monthly). Our members do service in Lakeview Hospital and Kirkwood House and some are on the 12 step list. We also have members holding positions in the service structure.

Tarro YAH: Jeff J

We average approx 25 AA members per meeting with approximately 19 males 6 females. We have scheduled monthly group conscience meetings. Our membership numbers have dropped recently due to – work, members moving away and members supporting groups in need. Our members do service on the Phone Roster – holding positions in the service structure.

Truth:**Ian M**

Our group is averaging 20 AA members per meeting with approximately 15 males and 5 Females. Our members do their service on the Phone Roster and holding positions in the service structure. We also do PI work in the Maitland Area.

Turning Point: James Q

Membership at Turning Point has recently increased dramatically to 9, with two former members returning from far north Queensland and several other members joining our group, after a fall in membership in the past 6 months or so.

Our group is a structured group, and we encourage all members of our group to have a job and to help in the setting up and packing up of our meeting. We hold regular group consciences each month in the week following Area Assemblies or District Meetings.

Our group is active in service in our local area, taking on responsibility for the visiting program at Lingard Hospital and the AA presentation in the outpatients program at Lorna House at the Mater Hospital. We also have members on the visiting roster for Lakeview Detox and Cessnock Gaol. Our members are also on the 24hr Help Line Phone Roster.

Our group undertakes PI work in our local area, although this has fallen off in the past 12 months and we are now only beginning to explore possibilities for further PI activities. Attendance at our meeting varies between mid teens and mid thirties, with around 20-25 being average. Ratio of men to women attending is normally about 3 or 4 to 1, but recently we have had an increase in the numbers of women attending our meeting. Yours in love and service,

General Business:

1. **From Email Correspondence:** Erik Braunitzer from www.duifoundation.org requested that we go into partnership with the two websites to support each other.

This was discussed and the point was raised this was in breach of the 6th and 10th traditions and therefore could not take place. Carried unanimously.

2. **Jeff J put a suggestion forward.**

At the recent Area C assembly a suggestion was put forward and discussed, that if finances were available, a laptop computer with wireless internet be purchased for the Secretary to undertake their duties in a more competent and transportable manner.

Motion put forward (at Area C):

That the Assembly delegate the Area Executive to investigate and purchase a laptop computer for the Area. That such expenditure be limited to \$1,000.

The Motion was passed unanimously.

I now put forward a suggestion that the Greater Newcastle District (GND) also purchase a laptop computer for the GND Secretary to undertake their duties.

Benefits:

- Portable and compact filing of monthly Minutes.
- Availability of all previous minutes.
- Easy and effective handover from Secretary to Secretary.
- Correspondence available when required.
- Minutes completed at meeting.

I now put the motion forward:

That the GND delegate the District Executive to investigate and purchase a laptop computer for the District. That such expenditure is limited to \$1,000.

Moved: Jeff J Seconded: James Q

The motion was discussed for and against.

Motion: Carried unanimously.

2. Lenny S - re Information available on AA. Service Website.

Just letting you know about the availability of the Official Australian AA Service Website. You will find it at <http://aaservice.org.au> .

This site covers Treatment & Correction Facilities, Public Information, General Service, Service material, Service opportunities plus much more.

When you go there, you will need to join. You can add your own comments; let people know what is happening in the fellowship where you live, what you are doing with service etc. This is what we need in Australia to help us work more closely together and share ideas and service.

A special thanks to all those members who worked hard to set this up.

Please pass this on to all your AA contacts to spread the message.

News Letters, Catalogues, CD's etc:

Caring Sharing Tape Library - Cherie E [eaglechez@hotmail.com]

Upcoming Events:

Rallies: Lightning Ridge 12th to the 14th of June 2009

Group Birthdays:

Meeting Closed in Harmony, Unity and Good AA Fellowship with the Serenity Prayer		4.15pm
		at:
NEXT MEETING:	Greater Newcastle District (GND) of AA Time: 1.30pm Date: Saturday 6th June 2009 Venue: Jeff's Place – 3 Avard Close Thornton	
E-mail:	Area Secretary < secretary@aa-area-c.org > PI/CPC < pi@aa-area-c.org >	
POSTAL ADDRESS:	PO Box 196 JESMOND 2299	