



June 09 Monthly Meeting

Date: 13 / 06 / 2009

Venue: Tarro Community Hall

Meeting Commenced: 1.45pm

Traditions Read by: Lindsay – Shortland BBS

G.S.R. Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Jim K – Turning Pt (DCM) | 2. John C – Tarro BBS |
| 3. Ian M – Truth (Treas) | 4. Jeff J – Tarro YAH (Sec) |
| 5. Lindsay – Shortland BBS | 6. Lorraine – Nelson Bay |
| 7. Tom – Raymond Terrace | 8. Paul – Raymond Terrace (Alt) |

Apologies:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Harry – Nelson Bay (PI) | 2. Michael H – Kurri Steps |
| 3. Lenny – Cessnock L/Sober | |

Secretary Report:

Jeff J – Tarro YAH

Move that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as read.

Business Arising: Nil

Moved: Jim K – Turning Pt

Seconded: Ian M - Truth

Incoming Correspondence:

Mail:

1. Invitation to the Mental Health Forum in Newcastle – June 22nd 2009, from the Newcastle Rotary Club. Flyer exhibited.
2. AA Around Australia from GSO.

Emails:

- 1. From: Ms Pitkin** - requesting assistance with an assignment she has elected in Community & Family Studies – she chose Alcoholics Anonymous.
- 2. From: J & D Nentwig - Subject:** Drug Action Week
J & D Nentwig - www.freewebs.com/alcohol-is-no-drink
- 3. From Freedom Group** – re change of Venue. (Circulated)
- 4. From Contact Group** – re change of Venue (Circulated)
- 5. From Nelson Bay Group** – re change of Venue (Circulated)
- 6. From Dana of Byron Shire AA:** We are setting up a new district in Byron Shire and I have a few Q's. Re your phone line: Manning? CSO? District? Cooperation?
- 7. Web Site Renewal:** The domain name listed below will expire in 90 days.

newcastle-aa.org.au - 09/09/2009 - central-coast-aa.org.au - 10/09/2009

Outgoing Correspondence:

- 1. Reply from D.C.M to Ms Pitkin:** Asking how we can help.
- 2. Reply from GND Secretary:** To Ms Pitkin answering 10 Questions on AA.
- 3. Reply from GND D.C.M to: J & D Nentwig - Subject: Re: Drug Action Week.**
No opinion on subject due to AA Traditions
- 4. Venue changes circulated by GND D.C.M for:** Freedom – Contact & Nelson Bay
- 5. Reply to Dana of Byron Shire:**
I am the web master and D.C.M of the Newcastle District our Secretary's email address is secretary@newcastle-aa.org.au; My phone number is 49634066 Or 0425215693 if you ring me I will explain this stuff to you.

Secretary Report:

On Wednesday the 3rd of June the Executive of the GND went on a road trip to the National General Service Office of AA. We had a couple of reasons for this, Jim the outgoing Delegate to Conference wanted to introduce Jeff to Valerie, Tony and Therese the staff at the National Office as the incoming Delegate to Conference and also Ian our Treasurer who is also our Literature Officer wanted to purchase some freight free literature.

A great day was had by all and we had a nice yarn over a cuppa with Valerie & Tony.

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted: Jim K - Turning Pt

Seconded: Ian M - Truth

D.C.M. Report:**Jim K – Turning Pt****Report on meeting with Newcastle Lord Mayor:**

I arrived 10 minutes early for my meeting with Lord Mayor John Tate, I was ushered in on time and we had a 20 minute meeting.

He asked what he could do to help us, I told him:

1. We needed Office space.
2. To help pay the rent it would be handy if we had enough room for AA meetings.

Office space: The Lord Mayor wanted to know how many people would be at the office at any given time, I told him how we were looking at it being a drop in centre so there could be anything up to 5 people at it at any time. I also told him that we were the second AA office in NSW but that our office was closed a few months ago; I explained that internal squabbling was the cause and did not elaborate further on the reason it closed than that.

Meeting room: I told the Lord Mayor that AA meeting ranged from about 12 to 40 people so we would need a bit of space for that, I told him if all the intercity groups made the Office their meeting place we would be able to raise between \$150 to \$300 per week depending on the rent we charged the Groups.

We talked a bit about the history of AA in Newcastle and I told him how the Lord Mayor used to be AA's patron and we had a meeting downstairs in the Town Hall for many years. I told him about our founders and where AA started (Akron) and that Australia was the third country in the world to get AA.

I showed him our posters all seven of them and talked about CPC (Cooperation with the professional Community) and how we were doing an Alcohol Awareness campaign and asked if he could give me a name of a person to see in the council about placing posters in all Depoe's and such, he liked the posters and asked if he could Photostat them I told him he could keep them, he will be showing them to the Council manager on Tuesday when they have there meeting at the same time as he will be discussing office space for us.

I told him that I talked at the Mater Hospital Alcohol Program and that I had run into Council workers there, that were sent from council and he did not know about that but liked what we were doing.

He seemed very surprised that we were self funded, and asked about Government funding and the Sallies and such I informed him of Tradition 7 and that the sallies used our program but were not affiliated in anyway with AA, I think he will do everything in his power to help us even if at first it is just a stop gap lease of 2 years to get us started. There was some talk about the Joy Cumming Centre and other venues and he understood that we needed the Office in town.

The Lord Mayor took a lot of notes and I think he knows a lot more about AA now than before the meeting, we exchanged cards and he told me I could ring him on his mobile anytime if we needed help – help I think being Patron type things as well as what he is already doing. Even though it was given to me I think it was actually given to AA and we should try to keep this relationship going with all incoming and re-elected future Lord Mayors. Yours in Service

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted: Lindsay Shortland BBS **Seconded:** Ian M - Truth

Treasurers Report:

Ian M - Truth

Balance as at 18/04/2009..... \$ 2542.46

Incoming:

Donation.....Cessnock Living Sober..... \$ 40.00

Donation.....Tarro BBS..... \$ 40.00

Donation.....Maitland Tues Group..... \$ 110.00

Total: \$ 190.00

Outgoing:

Notebook computer..... \$ 949.00

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

Telstra A/C..... \$ 55.42

Total: \$ 1037.75

Current Balance.....\$1694.71

Business Arising: Questions on Telstra Accounts by Tom M – Accounts clarified.

Moved Accepted: Jim K

Seconded: John C

Literature Report:

Ian M – Truth

District Literature Account Transactions: 1/ 04/2009 – 10/06/2009 Top of Form

Transaction Search Results

Literature purchased in June valued at \$500.31

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
11/05/2009	PELICAN		\$32.00	\$860.83
11/05/2009	CESSNOCK STEPS		\$15.00	\$875.83
28/05/2009	SHORTLAND BBS		\$95.40	\$971.23
02/06/2009	TRUTH		\$24.80	\$996.03
04/06/2009	RAYMOND TERRACE MONDAY		\$86.00	\$1,082.03
09/06/2009	TURNING POINT		\$35.10	\$1,117.13

With the total selling price value of all cards, pamphlets, books & banners in stock being \$1561.63, we have a total value of literature & available funds of \$2178.45.

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted: Paul – Raymond Terrace

Seconded: Lindsay – Shortland BBS

Greater Newcastle Web Site Report: Jim K – Turning Pt

Because as a District we direct our PI at www.aa-area-c.org when doing my Greater Newcastle Web Site Report I do it for both sites because it helps us see how successful our PI is, the statistic the helps us see this is the referring Search Engine pages column compared to in Monthly history Number of visits column.

If you look in both site reports you will see a big difference in those columns in www.aa-area-c.org which shows that our PI has been successful.

First Site www.aa-area-c.org

Monthly history

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
May 2009	545	784	2892	2907	60.91 MB
Jun 2009	152	225	1088	1095	23.47 MB
Total this year	2173	3482	11226	11357	236.35 MB

Links from an Internet Search Engine

3 different referring search engines	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Google	46	95.8 %	46	95.8 %
Windows Live	1	2 %	1	2 %
Yahoo!	1	2 %	1	2 %

Second Site www.newcastle-aa.org.au

Monthly history

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
May 2009	89	155	505	505	4.83 MB
Jun 2009	32	54	176	176	1.77 MB
Total this year	422	883	3412	3506	84.15 MB

Links from an Internet Search Engine

1 different referring search engines	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Google	7	100 %	7	100 %

P.I. Coordinator: Nil (sick with Flu)

Harry – Nelson Bay

24hr Help Line Report:

Jeff J – Tarro YAH

The phone roster is going well and we are getting plenty of calls on average about 3 calls a day, these are not all twelve step calls, some are Alanon etc.

The Roster consists of 12hr slots:

Members on the current roster are:

Jim K	-	Turning Point:	Monday	Am (3 days)
Mick n Kerry	-	Turning Point	Monday	Pm
Jim K	-	Turning Point	Tuesday	Am
Vince D	-	Shortland BBS	Tuesday	Pm
Jim K	-	Turning Point	Wednesday	Am
Jeff J	-	Tarro YAH	Wednesday	Pm
Lenny S	-	Cessnock L/Sober	Thursday	Am
Brian Mc	-	Cessnock Steps	Thursday	Pm
Ian M	-	Truth	Friday	Am
Michael H	-	Kurri Steps	Friday	Pm
Bob K	-	Civic	Saturday	Am & Pm (All day)
Ian M	-	Truth	Sunday	Am (2 Days)
Richard	-	Medowie	Sunday	Pm

James Q – Turning Point has rotated off recently due to work commitments.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank James for his time, effort and availability, thank you it's much appreciated.

We have also had Kerry & Mick – Turning Point come on board; welcome aboard guy's it's great to have you with us. Bob K is back from Holidays and back on the roster, thanks Bob.

We are looking for more members to go on the roster, whether it is, as a weekly alternate or to take a position on the roster in the near future or as a 12 step person, **please contact Jeff and we will work something out, 4964 1344 or 0409 641 304.**

As we can see some members are being required to do more than their fare share. So if you are available please give us a call.

Remember 12 step work is our life blood, it keeps us sober when nothing else can and it's a great pleasure to be part of, so please come along and join us in helping our fellow Alcoholics know, there is a solution to there dilemma! God Bless!

Business Arising: Nil

Moved Accepted: Lorraine – Nelson Bay **Seconded:** Lindsay – Shortland BBS

Hospital Coordinators Reports:

Lakeview Detox Unit:

Jim K – Turning Pt

Lakeview is averaging about 10 patients per week usually between 3 to 4 Women and 6 to 7 Men, the brake down of Alkies to Addicts is usually 60% Alkies to 40% Addicts with a lot of duel Alkie/Addict.

The format is working well and we have a lot of questions happening now, I thank our Roster of Alkies for selflessly doing their bit and allowing a smooth operating Roster, the message is the same no matter who is presenting because of the District standardisation of a Format used in all hospitals.

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

The next meeting at Lorna House is not until next month and the previous meeting was reported on at the last District Meeting.

The Turning Point Spiritual Concept Group still supplies the presenters and literature at Lorna House working with and through the Greater Newcastle District, the Literature being used is the: "Is AA for You" pamphlet, the clinicians at the Lorna House program point their clients at the Literature and Lorna House is using about 50 pamphlets every 8 weeks.

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

Kirkwood has put it's move to the Mater back 2weeks to the 19th June, so we shouldn't miss doing our meeting there. Otherwise everything is going well. Numbers of clients seems to vary this month maybe it has to do with the move.

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

Averaging about 2-3 patients per meeting, the Turning Point Spiritual Concept Group still supplies the presenters and literature at Lingard Hospital working with and through the Greater Newcastle District, the Literature being used is the: "Is AA for You" pamphlet. James Q and Kirra do the presentations and this relationship is building up to be a good relationship, it is the newest of the Districts Hospital program's but it is getting a lot of former patients attending AA meetings.

Business Arising: Nil**Moved Accepted:** John C – Tarro BBS**Seconded:** Ian M - Truth**Gaols Coordinator:****Lenny S – Cessnock L/S****Cessnock N.S.W. Gaol Meetings – May 2009****Minimum Security:**

Members – Russ & Eric – Terrigal Beach, Ian – Rutherford, Jim – Turning Point, Brian & Yvonne – Cessnock Steps

Numbers of meetings held = 3**Total Inmate Attendances for month = 16****Maximum Security**

Members - Brian – Cessnock Steps, Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober, David – Gosford Kookaburra Group, John R - Gosford Kookaburra Group, Ian – Rutherford, Jim K – Turning Point Group

Numbers of meetings held = 4**Total Inmate Attendances for month = 31**

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

Members - Brian – Cessnock Steps, Lenny S – Cessnock Living Sober,
David – Gosford Kookaburra Group, John R - Gosford Kookaburra Group, Ian –
Rutherford, Jim K – Turning Point Group

Numbers of meetings held = 4

Total Inmate Attendances for month = 17

The Minimum Security meeting will remain on a Wednesday afternoon 2 to 3.30pm for the time being. We will keep everyone on the same week of their roster, as before.

E.g. 1st week – Ken, Brian and Yvonne etc.

If this is unsatisfactory for you, let me know on **0438-299320 or 02-40160003**.

I would like to thank Dick and Geoff from Terrigal and Phil from Branxton who, due to work commitments are unable to make the Wednesday afternoon meetings. These members have put in a great effort in carrying the message to the Minimum Security for a long period of time. Thank you for your commitment.

We have vacancies for the Monday and Wednesday afternoon meetings now. Contact me if you can make a commitment to it for once a month for at least 6 months.

Courts Coordinator:

Tom – Raymond Terrace

Newcastle	
Name of AA Person in Attendance	Vince D
Name of Attending judge	Monahan, Mis Trussott
Number of Referrals	
Comments or how referred by Judge or whoever	
Magistrate	
Solicitor	
Aboriginal support person	
Self	
Raymond Terrace	
Name of AA Person in Attendance	Tom M
Name of Attending judge	Col Elliot
Number of Referrals	3
Comments or how referred by Judge or whoever	
Magistrate	
Solicitor	2
Aboriginal support person	
Self	1

Toronto	
Name of AA Person in Attendance	Tom M
Name of Attending judge	Jackie Tradd,
Number of Referrals	1
Comments or how referred by Judge or whoever	
Magistrate	
Solicitor	
Aboriginal support person	
Self 1	
Belmont Court	
Name of AA Person in Attendance	
Name of Attending judge	
Number of Referrals	
Comments or how referred by Judge or whoever	
Magistrate	
Solicitor	
Aboriginal support person	
Self	

Business Arising: Nil

Moved accepted: Paul – Raymond Terrace **Seconded:** John – Tarro BBS

Events Committee Coordinator: Vacant

Rally Committee Coordinator: Vacant

G.S.R. Reports:

Cessnock Living Sober: Lenny S
No Report

Cessnock Steps: Brian Mc
No Report

Kurri Steps: Michael H

The Kurri meeting has seen a drop in numbers over the last few months. It would be averaging 5 people a week with 80% being men. There has been quite a few people who have moved out of the area and now that Cessnock has more meetings people most likely don't need to travel as they use too, especially with the economic climate the way it is.

Nelson Bay:**Lorraine**

Moved to new venue at Anna Bay – Average attendance 15. 50:50 mix men and women. The new hall is warm and cossie.

Raymond Terrace:**Tom M**

Average attendance 20 good mix of men and women. Getting some passing through visitors and young people turning up.

Shortland BBS:**Lindsay**

Average attendance 15 to 20 members – Not many women attending.

Tarro BBS:**John C**

Going OK Average 15 to 20 members – not many women attending.

Tarro YAH:**Jeff J**

Going well – average attendance 25 – 30. We require some new service oriented members to assist with group functioning in a structured way.

Truth:**Ian M**

Going OK, average attendance 12 to 15 – Not many women.

Turning Point:**Jim K**

Average attendance 20 – Doing well Kerry and Mick settling back into group since their return from far north Queensland – getting some young members attending and a few new members each week.

Business Arising:**General Business:****1. Approval of mail out meetings lists.**

Put forward Jim K

Passed by meeting – 1000 meetings lists to be posted out to GND Groups.

2. Letter of invite to Newcastle AA Members and AA Groups for meeting about the forming of a proposed new AA Office in Newcastle.

Put forward Jim K

a. Secretaries letter of invite, accepted and passed by meeting to go to all

Groups in the Greater Newcastle District when time – date and venue established.

b. Committee given job of booking hall for meeting.

3. **Procedural guidelines for calls not of 12 step nature (CPC and such)**
Put forward Jim K
 - a. **Committee plus Lenny S given the job of putting together phone guidelines for CPC and non 12 step calls.**

5. **Singleness of Purpose for AA members with a dual problem, wanting to do service.** Put forward Jim K
 - a. **Subject was discussed and it was decided more research was required, so we can discuss it in its totality and therefore provide an appropriate solution. This subject will be raised again at the next GND meeting.**

News Letters, Catalogues, CD's etc:

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

Upcoming Events:

Rallies:

Group Birthdays:

**Tarro Young At Heart Group: 23yrs on Thursday 23rd July 2009
7.30 – 9.00pm – Supper Afterwards.**

Group Venue Changes:

Freedom Group:

Commencing **Friday 12th June 2009** - will meet at there new location at the
Uniting Church Hall – 199 Broadmeadow Rd, Broadmeadow

The hall is situated 4 houses away from Broadmeadow Railway Station and 6 houses from 9 ways intersection. Ample free parking available

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Nelsons Bay Group:

Will be meeting at a new venue from **09/06/2009**, for both the **Tuesday** and **Friday** meetings.

Lutheran Church - 163 Gan Gan Rd, Anna Bay

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Contact Group:

Formerly meeting at Kirkwood at Wisteria House James Fletcher Hospital at 8pm on Monday evenings.

From Monday 1st June 8.00pm will be meeting at:

Salvation Army Hall - Cleary Street Hamilton

(Where Central Group Thursdays 8pm meet)

A Message from the National Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

FAMILY MEMBERS MISSING - WHERE ARE YOU?

It is estimated that less than 10% of Australian Groups participate in service at a National level, i.e. they are not represented at Districts or Areas and therefore have no say in any decisions made for AA.

We'd like to hear from those groups and members not participating. There could be several reasons why we don't see you. Here are a few possibilities:

You've never heard of us, don't know how to contact us and don't know what we do? (Our fault – we're going to try to put that right).

You've heard that involvement in service is all political and you should stay away? (Not true, but there's only one way to find out for sure. What's that it says in Appendix II of the Big Book? Something about contempt prior to investigation being a bar against all information?).

You've attended meetings and found them boring and don't see the point of them? (Again – our fault. We can get bogged down in trivial matters. We probably need some fresh ideas and enthusiasm).

You don't understand this General Service Structure thing and get intimidated because you don't understand what's going on. (it's quite easy to understand, once you have the jargon explained).

You think you're too young (in age or sobriety) and too inexperienced to be of any use. (We need you. Often it's the young and inexperienced that come up with the best ideas!).

You don't see how all this stuff helps the sick alcoholic, and that's all you're interested in doing. (We're ready and willing to explain. That's our primary purpose too!).

Your feedback is very important and will be completely anonymous. Just take the time to write and let us know your thoughts. Send to valerie@aa.org.au or 48 Firth Street, Arncliffe, NSW 2205. Please feel free to be completely honest.

Please take the time to read what's on the next page. It will help you understand why you are so desperately needed. Perhaps you could read them to your fellow members at your next group conscience? .

Think about it, and please give us a go!

All major decisions for AA are made by the Groups through their elected delegates at the annual General Service Conference. This is the group conscience meeting of AA as a whole, the family meeting, where decisions affecting the current family members and future generations are made. It is important, to ensure that democracy continues, that we hear the voice of all groups. Unfortunately, today, the voices of the majority of groups are not being heard. In 1955, the co-founders of AA, after having fought a great battle to convince the Trustees of the General Service Board it was time to release control of the Fellowship to its rightful owners, told us that we would hold these Conferences “to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society.”

Our co-founders entrusted us to look after AA, just as they had done in the past. Just as parents hand over control of the family business to their children, when they become adults.

This is what Bill W said when he handed over to us:

May God bless Alcoholics Anonymous forever. And I offer a prayer that the destiny of this society will ever be safe in the hearts of its membership and in the conscience of its trusted servants. You are the heirs. The future belongs to you.

We know that all families have to have parents and we know that the great unwisdom of all parenthood is to try to remain the parents of infants in adolescence and keep people in this state forever. We know that when the parents have done their bit, and said their pieces, and have nursed the family along, that there comes the point that the parents must say: Now, you go out and try your wings. You haven't grown up and we haven't grown up, but you have come to the age of responsibility where, with the tools we are leaving you, you must try to grow up

*“Here is the remainder of your Third Legacy. This Conference shall become **our successor**. To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you.*

For those who don't understand what the significance and the importance of the General Service Conference is to AA, it has been explained very simply. This explanation is included in the folder given to every delegate at every General Service Conference, to remind us why we are there:

“We may not need a General Service Conference to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to insure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth which brought us back to life.

We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must insure can never invade AA.

We need it to insure AA against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect AA against disintegration while preventing over integration.

We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services. We need it to insure that changes within AA come only as a response to the needs and the wants of AA, and not of any few.

We need it to insure that the doors of the halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome.

We need it to insure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is”.

Meeting Closed in Harmony, Unity and Good AA Fellowship with the Serenity Prayer		4.30pm
	at:	
NEXT MEETING:	Area C – Assembly Meeting Time: 1.30pm Date: 11/07/2009 Venue: Merewether Surf Club	
E-mail:	Area Secretary < secretary@aa-area-c.org > PI/C.P.C < pi@aa-area-c.org > Web Site < www.aa-area-c.org >	
POSTAL ADDRESS:	PO Box 196 JESMOND 2299	