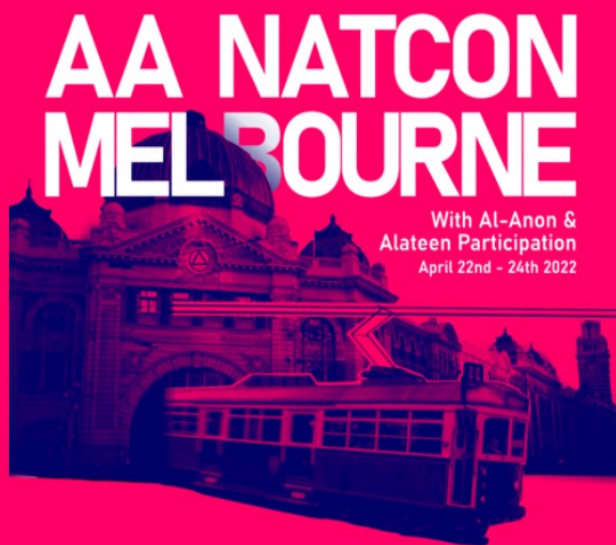


March 2022

# AA Around Australia



## Let's go to Melbourne!

Quarterly  
newsletter  
published by the  
General Service  
Office of  
Alcoholics  
Anonymous  
Australia



(02) 9599-8866



[gso@aa.org.au](mailto:gso@aa.org.au)



48 Firth Street

Arncliffe NSW

2205



[www.aa.org.au](http://www.aa.org.au)



"We shall be with you in the fellowship of the spirit," P. 164- the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. The theme for the 2022 National Convention represents our coming together as a fellowship, with participation from Al-anon and Alateen, after such a tumultuous and unprecedented couple of years.

**Natcon 2022 will run from April 22nd- April 24th, at the Pullman Hotel in Albert Park, Victoria. Full programme, ticket, accomodation and contact information available at [www.aanatcon2022.com](http://www.aanatcon2022.com)**

This three-day celebration will allow us to share our experience, strength and hope face-to-face once more, and to create the fellowship we want through meetings, workshops, activities and service over the course of the weekend. With an

exciting new programme, beginning with early yoga, and featuring speakers from across Australia and beyond- we know there will be something for everyone. On Saturday night, we have an inclusive event with live music, where we can find joy in coming together again after so long. Join in the history and tradition of our fellowship and walk with us on the road to happy destiny. Whether you are new to the programme, an old-timer, or interested but unsure, there is a place for you at Natcon 2022.

Opportunities for all kinds of service are available, and discounted accommodation is also accessible through the website. Contact the host planning committee at [aaconvention2022@gmail.com](mailto:aaconvention2022@gmail.com) for more details, or with any questions.

# Calendar of events

## AA National Convention 2022

**April 22 @ 8:00 am - April 24 @ 5:00 pm**

Natcon 2022 will run from April 22nd - April 24th, at the Pullman Hotel in Albert Park, Victoria. Full programme, ticket, accommodation and contact information available at [www.aanatcon2022.com](http://www.aanatcon2022.com)

## APRIL 2022

### Living Sober Autumn Camp

**April 8 @ 5:00 pm - April 10 @ 12:00 pm**

**Camp Getaway, 161-163 Kimbolton-Axedale Road, Axedale,**

For more information contact [sat-urdaynightlivingsober@gmail.com](mailto:saturdaynightlivingsober@gmail.com)

## MAY 2022

### Hastings District Rally

**May 27 @ 5:00 pm - May 28 @ 5:00 pm**

St. Agnes Parish Hall, Hay St, Port Macquarie, Hay St

Port Macquarie, For more information please contact [glbrettell@bigpond.com](mailto:glbrettell@bigpond.com)

## JUNE 2022

### Back to the Bush – Lightning Ridge Rally

**June 10 @ 8:00 am - June 13 @ 5:00 pm**

Lorne Station Information Bring your own camping gear, pop a tent and swag in the car or hitch up the caravan – RV and head to the “Ridge”, to camp under the stars and enjoy fellowship next to the fire pit, or relax in the free hot artesian bore baths at the Ridge.

## JULY 2022

### 2022 Bill W AA Camp

**July 22 @ 5:00 pm - July 24 @ 5:00 pm Douglas Daly Tourist Park**

Meetings, meditation, and fun in a peaceful bush setting – that’s the Bill W Camp – now in its 27th year. Some great sharing at meetings under the stars, morning meditation by the river, a damper cooking competition (BYO flour), a dip in the hot springs, or bring your talent to Red Faces. For more information contact Mark P 0400 255 019, Susan B 0432 606 601, Susan C 0416 402 552

## OCTOBER 2022

### Sydney Roundup

**October 14 - October 16**

2021 Event cancelled 2022 Event announced Sydney Roundup When: 14 - 16 October 2022

Where: Sydney Masonic Conference Centre Cnr Goulburn & Castlereagh St Sydney NSW 2000

Cost: \$165.00 Additional details: Register online at

[www.sydneyroundup.org](http://www.sydneyroundup.org)

## 2025 – AA Australia’s 80th Anniversary

A small committee has been formed to ask the Fellowship how it/we should celebrate our 80th anniversary in 2025.

At the February meeting, The Board adopted the following statement of purpose: *“In the spirit of unity and in keeping with our primary purpose of carrying the message to all who suffer from alcoholism, we commemorate 80 years of AA in Australia. We will achieve this by a year long program, implementing new literature initiatives, celebrating our fellowship; and carrying the message.”*

Australia was the first country outside North America to start AA meetings. The first such

meeting was on 1st March 1945 in Sydney. Today an AA presence can be found in approximately 180 countries.

In 2025, AA will be 90 years old – and 80 years old in Australia.

We begin by asking the Fellowship how we should celebrate this milestone and seek the engagement of the Fellowship through our groups, districts and areas as per our General Service Structure.

We will be setting up an email address where you can send us your thoughts, ideas and opinions as to how we as a

Fellowship would like to celebrate and what you can do in your group, district, area to honour this upcoming milestone.

Keep referring back to the AA website, for more information on how you can become involved in this exciting year long celebration of recovery.

# Incoming Correctional facilities Coordinator

My name is Tim and I've recently been appointed as the National Correctional Facilities Coordinator.

Luckily, I had already registered to attend the Combined Treatment & Accessibility, Correctional Facilities & PI/CPC National Forum in Brisbane, in February so I was in a position to immediately meet and hear many AA members, from many AA Regions, heavily involved in that realm of service. I cannot help but be particularly impressed by those who put themselves on the "front line" here. The Big Book tells us we should have no fear about going to any place when our

motives are good and inspired by a Higher Power, but at times like this when faith must turn to action, I get a chance to see where my faith is truly at.

My goal over the weekend was just to learn what our CF volunteers were doing and what they perceived to be the big challenges. One obvious thing that jumped out at me is that each Australian State (AA Region) is responsible for its Correctional Facilities and as such, things are done differently in each jurisdiction. So, to a significant extent any strategy to help inmates must be tailored based on that. I was amazed at

just how much work and effort is being done in this area. There are some very passionate and dedicated AAs giving vast amounts of their time to carry our message. And many have been doing this for years on end.

So, the question now is what I can do to help. I have felt somewhat limited at times. I am currently armed with a host of good contacts over 4 States/Regions and offers of support and friendship from each. I will be praying and listening to my new AA friends for guidance. I look forward to updating you soon...Tim O'S

## Literature in Correctional Facilities

Going to prison was never one of my burning ambitions but I had a couple of close shaves. I don't want another. Perhaps that's why I took on Area G Corrections Coordinator job. For a number of years my home group at 12noon in Inner City Sydney was one of the meetings that prisoners serving time at Long Bay were brought while doing the Gnara Nura drug and alcohol program. Their arrival in prison greens always brought something special. Sadly, now both that program and that meeting no longer exist. Face-to-face AA meetings inside prisons have declined steadily over the past 10 years, at least in NSW for a number of reasons. Covid has meant even less face-to-face access and opportunities.

One way around this has been to place AA literature in Prison Libraries. Every Correctional Facility in Australia is required by law to run a small library accessible to prisoners. This is firstly so they may study the Law relating to their case but other matters as well. They are run by inmates with help from key staff in each facility. In NSW the whole library catalogue can be accessed online, revealing that practically no AA literature was accessible to prisoners. Thanks to a positive response from the Manager of

Prison Library Services in NSW we have been able to donate over 40 copies of the new Grapevine personal story collection "Free on the Inside" which is "on the money", one story is set in Canberra, written by a Canadian who was there on an exchange program. It's a brilliant tool for carrying the message to Prisons. Over 50 stories, many perspectives, male, female, straight, gay, you name it. There are no graphics like the monthly magazine, just wall to wall stories of hope and recovery. Thank You Grapevine!!

Prior to its release we were able to place individual copies of Prison edition Grapevines in key centres at Kempsey, Nowra, Wellington and Lithgow. These centres have designated Individual Learning Centres (ILC's) run by qualified Education Officers who understand the importance of such resources. The central prison library in NSW is based at Brush Farm Training Facility at Eastwood in Sydney. They have subsequently accepted 40 hard Cover copies of both the Big Book and 12x12 for distribution to every Prison Library in NSW. As most people know it is nigh impossible for AA members to take any literature with them on prison visits for security reasons. The

library system could be a way around this in other States also. Our approach involved firstly tracking down the few Education Officers still employed full-time who were likely to understand and support our efforts. Then a standard letter or email is sent explaining AA and our non-religious agenda. (In NSW Public Libraries there is a policy of not accepting any book donations from religious groups.) Documentation is a big thing in all communication with prisons for security reasons, official responses can take time and patience is required. In NSW there is a pilot program running whereby inmates are being given electronic pads with limited online access. The Brush Farm Librarian sits on the Committee that oversees this and is now aware that we have literature in pdf form which could be considered for inclusion. Of course, literature is no substitute for face-to-face contact with prisoners who suffer our particular problem, but it's at least a starting point. Hopefully members in other States can benefit from our experience. Area G-Eastern Region Coordinator can supply copies of our initial email approaches if requested

Milton R Area G Corrections Coordinator

## From The Archives, how the Brown paper Bag came about

### “FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW”

Australian AA has been given living proof that the above statement depicts how a small simple suggestion gave birth to our biggest annual fundraiser namely The Brown Paper Bag Appeal. This article is also meant to inform those members of the AA Fellowship that never knew or not even heard of a member whose name was Herman Holger Karell originally from Finland known in AA as Tom K. (AKA “Tom the Finn”, “The Finn”) and often referred to as “The Godfather of Service”. So how did the Brown Paper Bag have its beginnings well let me tell you before the idea was taken to the GSO how it all began and as we all know the rest is history. In April 1995 Tom returned from a World Service Delegates AA Meeting that he attended in the role as Australia’s Delegate. In early May 1995 he sent a letter to the groups of the Manning Great Lakes District explaining his embarrassment when totals for the Foreign Literature Fund as it was then called showed Australia had contributed a paltry sum of \$60.40 for the period of 1991 to 1994.

Paltry when you consider countries like Iceland \$3,400.00, Japan \$6,770.00, Great Britain \$16,125.00, Ireland \$4,208.78 and his beloved Finland \$4,182.41 (was possibly the main catalyst for his letter) plus various amounts from other countries. I belonged to the Forster Monday Night Group which had only two members but good attendance from members of the other and older groups within the Manning Great Lakes District. I was at that time the District Secretary. That year the tenth of June fell on a Saturday so after a meeting in mid-May I suggested to Matt D., the other member, that we could contribute whatever money was in the collection on the Monday night, the twelfth June, towards this Literature Fund and he agreed. We felt that the week of June ten being Founders Day was the appropriate time. At the District meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May we advised Tom and the District of our idea and groups represented that night said they would do likewise. As a result, Manning Great Lakes contributed \$126.45 to the fund. The District also decided

that August be the month for a District and Area appeal for the literature fund. August because it was too late to get covering letters to all the Groups in the Area. The District also decided that this should be a topic for Conference and that it would be taken to the next area Assembly so the letters were compiled and mailed out. Tom being a man of action liked the concept of an annual appeal not just for the District but rather Australia wide and unbeknown to all of us he took the suggestion of “Founders Week” to the GSO Board in July 1995 and as a result of Conference that year the Brown Paper Bag was Born. In the first year of its inception over \$26,000.00 was raised and each year up until “Covid” amounts of over twenty thousand dollars collected.

So now let me talk about the man who was certainly not a fashion statement or even a great orator but rather a very passionate person about carrying the AA message and a great ideas man so if he said to you “I have been thinking” it was time to run because you were about to be given a task that you knew nothing about. Toms journey into AA began in October 1961 when he was hitch hiking outside of Mildura and he was picked up by a passing motorist who said to Tom “you don’t look well” and Tom replied, “I’m not and the grog has got me”. The driver was an AA member named eight o’clock Mick and he twelve stepped Tom to his first meeting that evening. Tom never forgot how the message was carried to him and his role in helping others and creating awareness of AA within the wider community became his AA Legacy. In the previous edition of “AA Around Australia” there were some brief acknowledgements of some of his achievements, but I would like to add a couple more of those not so well-known things.

From late 1978 into early 1979 Tom and the doctor commenced a detox withdrawal program at the hospital which was a world first in public hospitals. A first because instead of the use of drugs to wean and ease the patient down Tom had suggested a system of AA members in pairs on a four-hour roster system sitting by the patients’ bed to comfort them and take them to AA meetings in hospital pajamas. With the help of Doctor Ron this program was used as the model for

the highly successful “Mackinnon Unit” in Sydney. Nursing Staff called this the “Sitters Program” whereas the Doctor called it “The Non-Chemical Utilisation Withdrawal Program” but AA members just said it was “The man in the bed revisited”. This program ran for fifteen years until Dr. Ron retired.

In 1980 he encouraged Dr Ron to form a Drug and Alcohol committee that held monthly meetings at the hospital and as a result interns, community health and nurses attended meetings of AA as well information sessions run by Tom. This helped bring a far greater awareness of the problems of Alcoholism within the community and created a legacy of co-operation between AA and the local professional community that still exists today.

In 1984 he anonymously became a proxy script writer for one of the popular television shows of that era called “A Country Practice”. The series was depicting a doctor in the series having a few whiskies after work each night. Tom told his friend Dr Ron that this was very poor image to the public regarding doctors. Doctor Ron in turn wrote to the television station hosting the series and they set up a telephone conference with Dr Ron, Tom and Bob Berry a local D and A counsellor on a speaker phone in the board room at Taree hospital with the producer and director of the series. After Tom pointed out the folly of their ways, they rewrote future episodes to depict the whiskey becoming a problem for the doctor who was then forced to seek treatment for his problem. A true story and Bob Berry is willing to verify this.

There was a time when a phone call came from Alice Springs AA regarding a Norwegian man who could barely speak English, so Tom drove from his home in Taree NSW to Alice Springs, a round trip of six thousand kms, and helped in his being admitted to hospital acting as the interpreter and successfully twelve stepping the guy into AA. When arriving home, a local member said to him “Why drive so far” Tom replied “So he could understand the message”.

His legacy to create a much more informed community about AA and his tireless work with the medical

professionals locally brought AA out of the dark and into the light within his local community and then a much wider area of the Mid North Coast. His PI work and ideas became the template for many AA groups, Districts and Areas in carrying the message. -He set the benchmark for the service structure of the fellowship and the way it co-operates with the medical community as well as the wider community. That is why he was lovingly known in Australia as "THE GOD FATHER OF AA SERVICE".

At his funeral service in May 2011 one of his Grand Daughters read a verse that truly depicted Tom. It was called. "Successful Person"

That person is a success..... Who has lived well, laughed often and loved much. Who has gained the respect of intelligent adults.....and the love of children: Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; Who has never lacked any appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it: who leaves his world better then he found it; Who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had.

At a memorial service held for Tom attended by AA members and many of the Medical and Allied Health people a Specialist Physician gave a talk about Tom and said "Tom was a patient of mine for over thirty years, and I never really found out the medical reason he came to me about, but I sure heard and learned a lot about AA.

Tom had one of AA's great one liners and I quote "You all say at the end of your drinking you were finished..... Well I was Finish before I started". I would like to remember him not just for his achievements but also his quirky sense of humour.

It is a strange twist of fate that some thirty odd years after getting to know him that I am now in a role that he held at that time as World Service Delegate. I am simply following his example not filling his shoes as they were far too big. I am blessed to have known him.

Brian F Sunshine Coast (recently elected World service Delegate)

Translations Expenses  
1994  
Budget: \$136,000  
To show revised projects only

Projects for '94 as originally budgeted and in progress:

Hungarian Big Book .....	\$10,000.	
Bulgarian Living Sober .....	8,200.	
Romanian Twelve & Twelve .....	7,000.	
Turkish Living Sober .....	8,000.	
Turkish As Bill Sees It .....	10,000.	
Ukrainian Big Book .....	7,000.	
(\$4,000. for 1M originally budgeted; need 5M)		
Czech pamphlets .....	9,000.	
Miscellaneous pamphlet reprints .....	10,000.	
Ukrainian "44 Questions" .....	3,000.	
Miscellaneous checking .....	2,000.	
	\$74,200.	>74,200.

Unanticipated projects

New--Manuscripts available:		
Tagalog Big Book .....	\$11,000.	
(Twelve & Twelve originally scheduled)		
Nepali Big Book .....	14,000.	
Portuguese Big Book .....	6,000.	
(estimate, Portugal G.S.O.)		
Lithuanian "Daily Reflections" .....	5,000.	
Hungarian "Came to Believe" .....	4,000.	
Hungarian pamphlets: "The Clergy Ask" & .....	8,000.	
"Member's Eye-View"		
Romanian "Newcomer Asks" .....	3,000.	
Aboriginal dialects - pamphlets .....	2,000.	
(Australia G.S.O.)		

Reprints

Ukrainian Twelve & Twelve .....	6,000.	
Lithuanian Twelve & Twelve .....	3,230	
Turkish Twelve & Twelve .....	3,230	
Russian Twelve & Twelve .....	6,000.	
Lithuanian Big Book .....	4,000.	
Russian Big Book .....	7,000	

Unanticipated Total	\$82,460.	>82,460.
Sub Total	\$156,660.	>156,840.
Distribution & Storage	22,000.	>22,000.
	\$178,660.	\$178,660.
WSM International Fund	-22,000	-22,000
	\$156,660.	\$156,660.

FOREIGN LITERATURE FUND

	1991	1992	1993	1994
IRELAND	\$ 1,520.78	\$ 1,688.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$
GREAT BRITAIN	16,125.00			
FINLAND	300.00	1,280.41	792.00	1,310.00
ITALY	761.00			2,000.00
AUSTRALIA	60.40			
JAPAN	770.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
GUATEMALA		200.00		
NEW ZEALAND		526.02	258.48	263.52
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL CONF. URBANDALE - IA		278.97		
ICELAND		1,000.00	1,400.00	1,000.00
FRENCH SPEAKING EUROPE-BELGIUM			1,000.00	1,041.00
AUDREY, JIM-MARCIN & JEFF GERMANY			3,000.00	
GERMAN SPEAKING EUROPE			987.48	778.50
NORWAY				500.00
SPAIN			1,000.00	1,000.00
	19,537.18	6,973.40	11,437.96	10,398.02
INTEREST	307.94	765.10	702.97	317.47
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$ 19,845.12	7,738.50	12,140.93	10,715.49
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 27,583.62	\$ 39,724.55	\$ 50,440.04
REIMBURSEMENT TO A.A. WORLD SERVICES				(22,000.00)
BALANCE			AS OF 10/94	\$ 28,440.04

## 7th tradition in a cashless world

Back in 2019 my local meeting suspected donations were dropping because fewer people were carrying cash. We analysed our figures for the calendar years 2018 and 2019.

The amounts jumped around a lot but, using a spreadsheet program to fit a trendline we could see the result: average donations over those two years had dropped a massive 29 per cent.

And then covid hit. People were told not to use cash, that tapping a credit card was far more hygienic. Two years of that and even fewer people carried cash. When we resumed face-to-face meetings it was obvious that donations had taken another decline.

We encouraged people to go to <https://literature.aa.org.au/pages/donation> and make a donation that way, but those donations are just for CSO. How do we collect money for our CSO and Area? It became obvious that we had to work out some way of accepting credit cards.

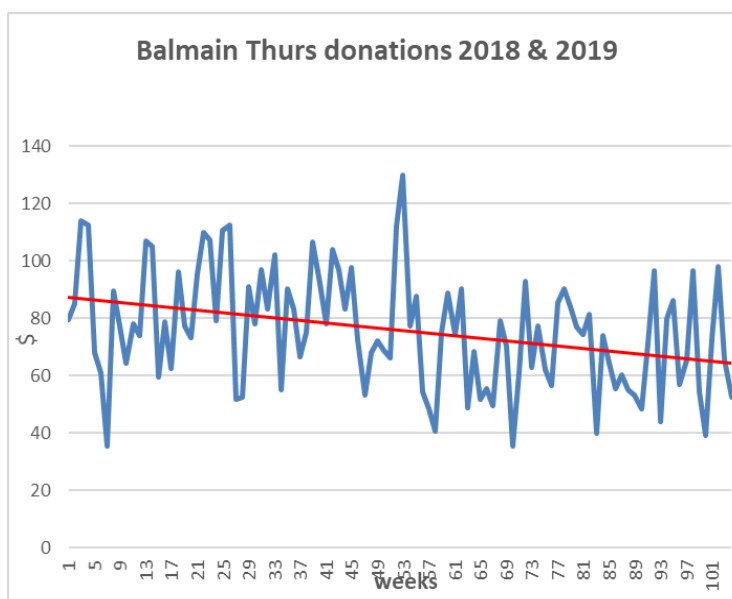
I looked at many systems but most were only suitable for much bigger operations than a typical AA meeting. You can take a look at what's on offer by googling "credit card payment systems."

We decided that the most promising system for our purposes would be The Square Reader. This is a little (7cm x 7cm) white plastic square that you will often see at markets and similar places for taking payments.

It's available for \$59 online at <https://squareup.com/au> or from Officeworks. That's all you need to buy. It comes with a charging cable that plugs into any USB-A port on a computer, laptop, or AC adapter in a power point.

It connects to a smartphone through a Bluetooth connection and the smartphone runs the Square App. This can be downloaded from the Apple Store or the Android Play Store for free.

Once it's all set up (see below), someone brings the little square along to the meeting together with



their smartphone with the Square App. At the end of the meeting we announce there are bowls on the table for people to make cash donations together with the technology to accept credit cards. Credit cards can just be tapped on the Square Reader as can phones using Apple Pay or Google Pay. The Square reader can also read cards that need to be inserted.

The Square company takes 1.9 per cent of the payment for its costs. We have found that members are keen to make use of the technology and we get a lot of donations that wouldn't be made if we could only take cash.



The system has excellent reporting facilities, and you can get complete breakdowns of what was paid when.

Donors can also get emailed receipts for their donations.

### Setting up

Like all technology, getting a Square going can be quite tricky – or quite complicated. It is best done by someone who's used to Bluetooth connections on a smartphone and who's good at reading online directions.

Usually that will be among our younger members but I'm 74 and I managed to do it – but it probably took me a bit longer than it

would take a young whizz kid.

You must have a dedicated bank account that preferably doesn't have AA in its name. You will also need an email address.

There is lots of information and help setting up at <https://squareup.com/au/en>

**Please note. In line with Tradition 6, AA does not endorse any product mentioned here. These names and details are provided just as one group's experience.**

A Square Reader with a smartphone ready to accept credit card payments

# Membership Survey- Who Are We?

At long last the Membership Survey is underway.

The aim of the survey is to provide a snapshot in time of our fellowship's makeup which will assist with the General Service Board (GSB) in its planning, provide information that can be used in our public information material and

be of interest to the media and professionals who work in the field of alcoholism.

All members are asked to participate. It should only take a few minutes to complete. To access please use the link or QR code below. If you want a paper version send an email to GSO. Of course the survey is absolutely confidential

Once completed, the results will be collated. It is intended to publish the results by the end of the year and they will be available to all members.

The survey will close on the 30 June. So please ask your AA friends and group members to complete it. The more members who do, the more complete picture of our membership we will have.



Please distribute to  
your AA friends and Groups

**Survey Closes 30th June**

# Positions Vacant

## Western Region Trustee Western Australia

At the General Service Conference to be held in November 2022, nominations for the position of Western Regional Trustee positions will be reviewed.

The successful candidate will take up their position on 1st January 2023 for a four year period and will be required to attend meetings of the General Service Board and the General Service Conference. General Service Board meetings are held over weekends in February and July and a General Service Board meeting together with the General Service Conference is held over a four-day period (Thursday – Sunday), during the first week of November.

The qualifications include:

- 10 years unbroken sobriety,
- Business or professional background,
- Leadership skills,
- A good grasp of AA structure,
- Availability.

For a full description of desired qualifications, please refer to the Australian AA Service Manual (available from GSO or on the AA Service Website <http://aaservice.org.au>).

Your application must be received no later than Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

Applications will be sent on to Areas, which will make their selection by Third Legacy Procedure for forwarding on to the General Service Conference for approval. The successful candidate will then be formally elected by the General Service Board.

For further information and for application form contact Valerie at the General Service Office, [gso@aa.org.au](mailto:gso@aa.org.au).

## Position Vacant General Service Trustee

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia is seeking nominations for the position of General Service Trustee. The position is for four years. General Service Trustee applicants should reside within commuting distance of the General Service Office.

Nominations will be considered by the Board and the successful candidate will be chosen by Third Legacy Procedure. The appointment of the successful candidate will then be ratified at the General Service Conference. Duties:

- To attend General Service Board meetings held at weekends in February and July. The trustee must also be available to attend the Board meeting and General Service Conference held over four days in November.
- To attend meetings at the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia in Arncliffe, NSW on a monthly basis, as part of the General Service Office Management Group.
- Be available to General Service Office staff in an advisory capacity throughout the year.
- Provide continuous service to the General Service Board throughout the year.

### Qualifications:

*Sound business or professional background.*

*Leadership skills.*

*Understanding of General Service Structure.*

*Several years of continuous sobriety.*

*Availability.*

Please telephone the General Service Office on (02) 9599 8866 or email [gso@aa.org.au](mailto:gso@aa.org.au) for further information, or to obtain an application form.

## Class A Trustees

The General Service Board needs to fill three vacancies for Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees.

The qualities that would be particularly valuable include:

- good communication skills as a writer, public speaker, negotiator, or media personality,
  - have experience/skills that would be useful to the Board, e.g. media, medical/psychological, legal, accountancy, information technology, etc.
  - open-mindedness and respect for AA's spiritual path.
- If you know anyone who might be suitable, please email [gso@aa.org.au](mailto:gso@aa.org.au) for an application form. Do you have any suggestions for someone who might be suitable? The person would need to be willing to attend one four-day meeting and two three-day meetings each year (all costs are paid for by AA) and to contribute on committees or individually throughout the year. They would also be required to develop an understanding of the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts for World Service and the General Service Structure.

## National Digital Archives Working Committee

We are seeking volunteer members for a newly created National Digital Archives Working Committee. The Committee will be responsible for exploring the need for Digital Archives and seeking ways to present and make use of the archives in a practical form for the fellowship. Meetings will take place via Zoom.

If you have an interest or experience in archiving and would like to be a part of the working committee please email your Expression of Interest to [chris@aa.org.au](mailto:chris@aa.org.au)

## AAWS sends out call for help



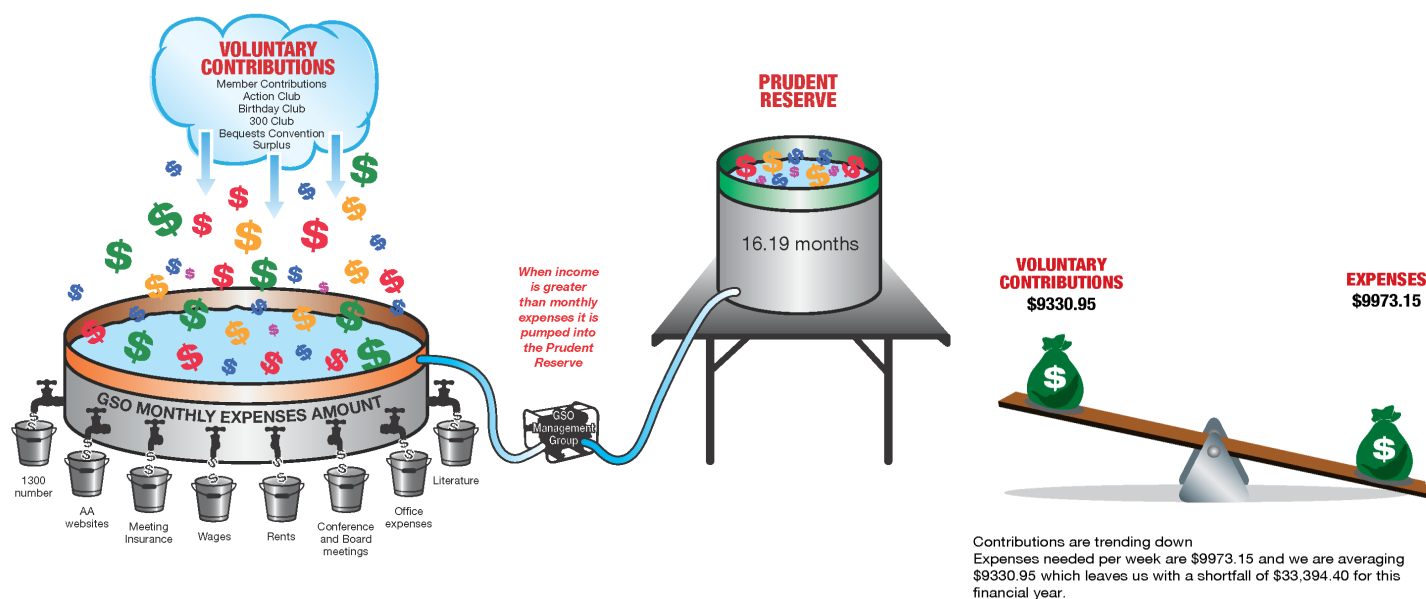
Stepping Stones are currently recruiting for a volunteer project where people can volunteer from their home computers with internet connections to help transcribe and categorize

Bill's handwritten letters. Once done, these will be searchable by key word like "Social Club." Do you want to help us spread the word about volunteering? We will be recruiting for a couple

more months. People can sign up at the following website:

<https://www.steppingstones.org/support/volunteer/>

## AA Financials December to February



# Group Contributions December to February

<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>		CR							
<b>Area A CR</b>		CR/A							
Area A CR		51.45	Byron Shire District	537.86	Paddington Sun	160.00			
Brompton Beginners		0.30	Dorrigo	86.90	Paddo Sat B'fast	442.30			
Daveron Park		12.00	Forster Mon Womens	200.00	Rocks Breakfast	1,646.00			
Elizabeth East		45.00	Lennox Head	330.00	Rozelle Fri pm	43.60			
Gawler		148.50	Lismore Red Dove	210.00	Rozelle Wed 8pm	10.90			
Grange		149.31	Lismore Spiritual Progress	60.00	Stanley St City pm	27.25			
Henley Beach Promises		10.50	Lismore Sun Night	230.00	Surry Hills	254.30			
Kadina Group		129.00	Lismore Womens Mon	30.00	Sydney City Wed 8am Lawyers	45.00			
Kadina Speakers		70.50	Port Macquarie Thurs S&T	250.00	Ultimo Wed LGBT	426.00			
Kilburn		97.02	Port Macquarie Womens Sat	142.50	Vaocluse Recovery Tues pm	550.00			
Mansfield Park		153.00	Pottsville Handover	848.65	Waverley Into Action	150.00			
Mens Topic		1.80	<b>Total Area A:</b>	<b>6,330.41</b>	Wesley Groups	169.34			
Nailsworth Happy Hour		1.50	<b>Area B ER</b>	<b>ER/B</b>	Whisky in my Milk	190.00			
North Adelaide Tuesday		65.08	Batemans Bay Living Sober Wed	282.00	<b>Total Area G:</b>	<b>14,423.32</b>			
Nuriootpa		60.00	Batemans Bay	84.00	<b>Area H ER</b>	<b>ER/H</b>			
Port Adelaide Friday		186.24	Bundanoon	140.00	Blaxland PPG	603.00			
Port Augusta		46.44	Canberra Speakers	66.00	Bright Spot Womens	705.00			
Port Lincoln		1,000.00	Colo Vale	100.00	Fairfield Mon	50.00			
Riverton		66.00	<b>Total Area B:</b>	<b>672.00</b>	Katoomba ABSI Sun	125.00			
Semaphore Serenity Mon		120.00	<b>Area C ER</b>	<b>ER/C</b>	Katoomba GLBT	24.00			
Semaphore Sunday		210.00	Gosford City Beginners	100.00	Katoomba Wednesday Noon	5.00			
Tea Tree Gully		92.00	Green Point	100.00	Macarthur District	204.06			
Two Wells		103.00	Hamilton SA	344.00	Springwood Wed Night	200.00			
Whyalla Friday		138.90	Nelson Bay Tues/ Fri Night	400.00	<b>Total Area H:</b>	<b>1,916.06</b>			
Women Living Sober		1.50	Newcastle City	50.00	<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>	<b>SR</b>			
Young Persons Group		1.80	Tarro Young at Heart	500.00	<b>Area A SR</b>	<b>SR/A</b>			
Yankalilla Group		36.00	Terrigal BBS	100.00	Warrnambool Central Fri	200.00			
<b>Total Area A:</b>	<b>2,959.04</b>		Umina Recovery	128.90	Wendouree Tues	120.00			
<b>Area B CR</b>	<b>CR/B</b>		<b>Total Area C:</b>	<b>1,722.90</b>	<b>Total Area A:</b>	<b>320.00</b>			
Adelaide Beginners		292.54	<b>Area D ER</b>	<b>ER/D</b>	<b>Area B SR</b>	<b>SR/B</b>			
Aldinga		168.09	Ashfield Spiritual Concepts	102.68	Area B SR	\$3,000.00			
Atheists and Free Thinkers		72.00	Bowral Fri	350.00	Albury BBS	165.00			
Bedford Park (Clovelly)		360.60	Milton Thurs Night	600.00	Bendigo Chapter 6	75.00			
Belair (Blackwood)		13.20	Oatley Living Sober Mon Night	400.00	Castlemaine Sun	327.50			
Blackwood		4.50	Oatley Sat 9am Daily Reflections	600.00	Maryborough Fri 1pm	180.00			
Breakfast Groups		280.71	Padstow CTM	100.00	Meryborough Sat BB	100.00			
Brighton Beginners		134.11	South Coast Service Office	144.06	Wodonga BB	230.00			
Brighton Women's		208.21	Ulladulla Thu & Sun	250.00	Endeavour Hills	206.25			
Burnside Welcome		120.00	<b>Total Area D:</b>	<b>2,546.74</b>	<b>Total Area B:</b>	<b>1,077.50</b>			
Christies Beach		311.45	<b>Area E ER</b>	<b>ER/E</b>	<b>Area D SR</b>	<b>SR/D</b>			
Coromandel		4.00	Area E Groups via NSCSO	3,602.58	Brunswick West	300.00			
Eastwood Recovery		112.95	Avalon Tues	200.00	Clifton Hill Big Wednesday	75.00			
Eastwood Women's Sunday		92.90	Baulkham Hills Sunday	600.00	Eltham	160.00			
Flinders St Friday		138.80	Hornsby / Asquith Fri Night	50.00	Geelong Sat	92.00			
Flinders St Tuesday		3.00	Lilyfield Steps	340.00	Geelong Womens Discussion	200.00			
Glenelg		65.52	Manly Sun am	500.00	Geelong Mens	199.00			
Glen Osmond R2R		275.00	<b>Total Area E:</b>	<b>5,292.58</b>	Lalor Park	310.00			
Goodwood		39.00	<b>Area F ER</b>	<b>ER/F</b>	Laverton PP	250.00			
Goolwa		60.00	Bathurst Sun Hospital	30.00	Mernda	465.62			
Hyde Park Recovery		36.00	Blaxland PPG	160.00	Ocean Grove Discussion	80.00			
Kangarilla		30.00	Orange Tues Night	300.00	Preston Sunrise	210.00			
Malvern		238.53	<b>Total Area F:</b>	<b>490.00</b>	Surfcoast Serenity Sat 5pm	61.00			
Meadows		120.00	<b>Area G ER</b>	<b>ER/G</b>	Torquay	90.00			
Mt Barker Sober on Sat		67.70	Annandale Mon 8pm	17.60	Werribee Fri Night	480.00			
Norwood		80.05	Ashfield Sun 1pm	320.00	Western Unity	1,600.00			
Parkside Thursday Lunchtime		1.50	Ashfield Weds	25.00	<b>Total Area D:</b>	<b>4,572.62</b>			
Payneham		39.00	Balmain Sat	25.10	BatteryPoint Sat Night	200.00			
Penola		18.00	Birchgrove	25.00	Burnie Fri Night	200.00			
Renmark Sunday		45.00	Bondi Beach 9am	80.00	New Norfolk	50.00			
Seaford		174.00	Bondi Beach Sea Change	5,340.00	Southern District Committee	2,000.00			
Spiritual/Speaker		60.00	Bondi Junct Sunday Womens	500.00	<b>Total Area E:</b>	<b>2,450.00</b>			
Southside Serenity by the Sea		60.00	Camperdown Thurs	162.60	<b>Area F SR</b>	<b>SR/F</b>			
Willunga		80.80	Canowindra Group	40.00	Armada	15.00			
Yankalilla		90.00	Darlinghurst Fri Gay Mens	60.00	Belmont Unity Recovery	300.00			
Young Peoples		6.30	Darlinghurst G&L Steps	320.00	Bentleigh Life's in Session	114.13			
Zoom As Bill Sees It Women's		7.50	Double bay Sat pm	500.00	Carlton	100.00			
<b>Total Area B:</b>	<b>3,903.46</b>		Edgecliffe	124.00	Carlton Mens	125.00			
Adelaide CSO (Group Donations)	<b>1,872.73</b>		Erskineville	400.00	Croydon Tues	150.00			
<b>Total Central Region:</b>	<b>8,735.23</b>		Headmiles	360.00	Dandenong Common Welfare Fri	75.00			
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>	<b>ER</b>		Kings Cross Sun 7pm	248.00	Hampton Sunrise	160.00			
<b>Area A ER</b>	<b>ER/A</b>		Kings Cross Womens Sat	363.00	Mansfield	109.50			
Armidale Recovery		200.00	Maroubra Sat am	65.00	Melbourne Rise and Shine	289.00			
Ballina Wed BBS		60.00	Maroubra Junction Mon noon	20.00	Melbourne On Awakening	940.00			
Banana Coast District		3,000.00	Moore Park	6.50	Melbourne Late Night	311.70			
Bellingen Sat Meditation		44.50	Newtown Fri 7pm	964.11	Melbourne Girls Talk	240.00			
Brunswick Heads Fri ABSI		100.00	Overcomer's Place	118.72	Mornington Mon	1,402.67			
			Paddington Sat 8am	114.00	Prahran Twilight	250.00			
			Paddington Fri Night Speakers	60.00					

# Group Contributions December to February

Somerville Sanity	180.00
St Kilda Beginners BBS	200.00
South Melbourne Mens Group	1,376.32
Toorak Wed Happy Destiny	52.42

**Total Area F:** 6,390.74

**Total Southern Region:** 14,810.86

## **NORTH EASTERN REGION**

Area A NER	NER/A
Airlie Beach	90.00
Atherton	120.00
Via Cairns CSO	143.56
Cairns BB Mon	100.00
Cairns Thurs Fellowship	80.00
Cairns Rainbow	200.00
Cairns Steps Tues	101.45
Cairns Womens	150.00
Hermit Park Living Sober	90.00
Kuranda	70.00
Mackay Hope	187.87
Mackay Pioneer	20.00
Mackay Serenity	30.00
Townsville District	1,200.00
Townsville Easy Does It	300.00
Townsville Saturday Night	76.20
Upper Ross/Rollingstone	220.00

**Total Area A:** 3,179.08

Area B NER	NER/B
Albany Creek/ Carseldine HP	32.00
Area B	3,000.00
Ashgrove West Big Book Sun 8pm	45.00
Aspley DR Sat am	90.00
Auchenflower	150.00
Bridgeman Downs Weds	390.00
Brisbane Rainbow	100.00
Brisbane Traditions and Concepts	130.00
Brisbane Skype	130.00
Buddina Monday noon	850.00
Bulcock Beach	200.00
Caboolture Big Book Recovery	346.00
Caloundra BB Sat	120.00
Chevallum	150.00
Childers Group	60.00
Cooloola Cove	100.00
Coolum	715.00
Cooroy	60.00
Enoggera BBS Mon am	200.00
Fortitude Valley Mens	150.00
Gladstone	240.00
Gympie BBS	105.00
Hervey Bay Monday Night	80.00
Margate Beginners	40.00
Maroochyore Friday Cosmos	150.00
Maroochyore Sun Topic	360.00
Mooloolaba Beginners	379.00
Nambour Saturday Night	850.00
Nanango Recovery	30.00
Nundah	800.00
Paddington Serenity	195.00
Petrie Park Sun	200.00
Pomona	500.00
Redcliffe Mon	25.00
Sandgate	60.00
Sandgate Sat pm	210.00
Sandgate/Brighton Steps Thurs	30.00
Tewanting Monday ID	300.00
Toowong Womens	300.00

**Total Area B:** 11,872.00

Area C NER	NER/C
Area C NER	3,000.00
Alexandra Hills	60.00
Allora Living Sober	150.00
Annerley Womens	90.00
As Bill Sees It Tues 8pm Gold Coast	50.00
Bayside Beginners	120.00
Bethania Plan B	144.60

Boonah	60.00
Brisbane Traditions	45.00
Brisbane West End	187.90
Broadbeach Waters Thurs 5.30pm	300.00
Bulimba Thurs Secular	75.00
Burleigh Heads Early Birds	780.00
Burleigh Heads Fri The Way Out	500.00
Burleigh Heads Fri 8pm	37.20
Cleveland Topic Thurs am	75.00
Coomera BB Monday 7pm	85.60
Coorparoo Day	234.00
Daily Reflections	120.00
Forest Lake Steps	113.50
Gold Coast District PI	50.00
Gold Coast Mens	673.30
Greenslopes	180.00
Gumdale Wed Night	90.00
Gumdale Saturday	75.00
Helensvale Tues 8pm	60.00
Hope Island Thurs S&T	840.00
Ipswich ID Recovery	210.00
Isle of Capri	236.00
Isle of Capri Sunrise	240.00
Kenmore Groups	60.00
Morningside Seize The Day	300.00
Murwillumbah Sat pm	50.00
Nerang Steps	171.60
New Farm	556.74
Ormiston ID	30.00
Oxley Station	313.70
Palm Beach BB Wed 7pm	60.00
Paradise Point Fri 6pm	60.00
Redland Bay Sun BBS	180.00
Samford Tues & Thurs	1,458.00
Southport Fri Night Traditions	320.00
Southport Mon Womens BB	198.08
Southport Sat 5pm	195.00
Springwood Topics	120.00
Stanthorpe	120.00
Toowong Beginners	30.00
Toowoomba Main Group	1,000.00
Toowoomba Tues Night Recovery	180.00
Tugun Thurs	30.00

**Total Area C:** 11,255.22

**Total North Eastern Region:** 26,306.30

## **WESTERN REGION**

Area A WR	WR/A
Area A WR	50.00
80 Mile Beach/Sandfire Steps	60.00
Claremont	382.76
Eureka	30.00
Hghgate Spiritual Progress	50.00
Inglewood Women's	42.00
Perth Mens	33.75
Scarborough Sat Candlelight	200.00

**Total Area A:** 798.51

Area B WR	WR/B
Beaconsfield Wed BB	120.00
Busselton	600.00
Donnybrook	180.00
Fremantle Doctor	60.00
Joy of Living	210.00
Mandurah Steps	300.00
Sunday Spiritual Concept	188.00

**Total Area B:** 1,658.00

**Total Western Region:** 2,456.51

## **NORTHERN REGION**

Area A NR	NR/A
Alice Springs Womens	50.00
Darwin Harbourview LS	82.02
Darwin Sun Rapid Creek	90.00
Darwin Tues BB	172.54
Darwin Mon Rapid Creek	120.00
Humpty Doo	90.00
Nightcliff Womens	109.50

**Total Northern Region:** 714.06

Unknown Internet Deposits	Unknown
Unknown QLD	330.00
Zoom In All Our Affairs	150.09
Unknown Eastern Twilight	770.00
Unknown Gutter Bravado	165.00
Unknown Womens 164	175.00
Unknown LGBT Friday	27.00
Unknown Zoom In All Our Affairs	100.00
Unknown Spiritual Concepts	690.00
Unknown Unshakeable Foundation	120.00
Unknown Wednesday 8am	25.00
Unknown WWBBTUE	40.00
Unknown 4th Dimension BBS	30.00
Unknown Serenity by the Sea	117.00
Unlown Living Sober	70.00
Zoom 24 Hour Marathon	36.07
Unknown Daily Reprieve St 10, 11 & 12	90.00
Unknown South Wet Womens	140.00
Unknown WE Meditation	149.61
Pakenham Zoom	100.00
Sobriety Sisters	87.00

**Total Unknown Deposits:** 2,739.09

# Total \$89156.06

**From the Australian General Service Conference of 1974:**

*That the Australian Service Conference on behalf of all AA members in Australia pledges that we accept responsibility for the maintenance of a General Service Office and ask the groups in Australia to provide the necessary finance to carry out this task.*



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[www.aaservice.org.au](http://www.aaservice.org.au)



# AA contacts in Australia

## Central Region (SA)

**Adelaide** Room 203,  
95 Currie St Adelaide 5000.  
Bus (08) 8221 6888, A/  
H (08) 8221 6999.

## Eastern Region (NSW & ACT)

**Sydney City** Offices 1&2  
Kings Cross Parking Station  
9a Elizabeth Bay Road  
Bus. (02) 9389 6333 24  
hrs. (02) 9387 7788 PO  
Box 478, Bondi Junction 2022 .

**Northern Sydney** Kuringai  
Community Groups Centre, cnr  
Mona Vale & Rosedale Rds. St  
Ives 2075 Bus (02) 9488-9805  
24 hrs. (02) 9488 9820 PO  
Box 151 St Ives 2075

**Blue Mountains & Western Sydney** Ph 24 hrs 0428 160 457  
PO Box 4141, Winmalee. NSW  
2777

**Byron Shire District**  
AA 12 Step Ph: 1800 423 431 or  
0401 945 671 (24hrs)

**Canberra** Grant Cameron  
Community Centre, 27 Mulley  
Street, Holder, ACT (02) 6287  
3020. PO Box 3898, Weston,  
ACT 2611

**Gosford** William Court 6/12  
William St. Gosford, Phone  
(02) 4323 3890 PO Box 46 Gosford  
2250.

**Newcastle** Greater Newcastle  
CSO, 31 Gregson Ave, Mayfield  
West NSW 2304  
PO Box 196, Jesmond 2299

**Southern Highlands** (02)  
8250 7318 www.aash.org.au

**Wollongong** 114-116 Princes  
Highway, Upstairs cnr. Elliott  
Road, Fairymeadow. 2519. Phone  
(02) 4285 6788

## North Eastern Region (QLD)

**Brisbane** Annerley City Library  
Annexe, 450 Ipswich Road,  
Annerley.4103.  
12 Step: (07) 3255-9162  
Office Tel (07) 3255-9962  
PO Box 299, Annerley, D.C. 4103

**Cairns** Badminton Center, 129  
Mulgrave Rd. Cairns.  
Email. aacso@aafnd.org  
Phone (07) 4051-2872. PO Box  
2089 Cairns CBD 4870

**Gladstone** 24 hrs. 0419 725 287

**Gold Coast** Community Centre  
Lawson St Southport.  
(07) 5591 2062 PO Box 2061  
Southport 4215.

**Hervey Bay** Contact 0438 169  
764 9am - 9pm

**Mackay** Contact (07) 4953 1742

**Maryborough**  
9am - 9pm 0438 169 764

**Rockhampton** (07) 4927 4416

**Townsville** 1 Charters Towers  
Road. 4810.  
Phone (07) 4771 5411  
Fax (07) 4771 6555 PO Box  
1443, Townsville.

## Southern Region (VIC & TAS)

**Prahran 12 Step Office**  
24 hrs. (03) 9529 5948  
www.aamelbourne.org.au  
info@aamelbourne.org.au

**Melbourne North/West Intergroup** Phone 0419 610 025

**Central Victorian District**  
PO Box 121, Golden Square, Vic  
3555  
Phone: 0447754111  
Website: aacvdistrict@aa.org.au  
Email:  
aacvdistrictsecretary@hotmail.com

**Chapter Six Motor Group Service Office**  
PO Box 525 Kyabram Vic 3620  
Ph 0428855027  
www.chaptersixmotorcyclegroup.com

**Geelong** (03) 5229 1710.  
PO Box 914, Geelong 3220

**Mornington Peninsula District**  
1300 880 390  
PO Box 379, Mornington Vic  
3931

**Shepparton and Mooropna District**(03) 5831-5532. PO Box  
232, Shepparton, 3632.

**Hobart** Room 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr,  
McDougall Building, Ellerslie  
Road, Battery Point, Hobart.  
Phone (03) 6234 8711. PO Box  
317, Hobart 7001

**Launceston** Contact (03) 6334  
7060. PO Box 350 Launceston  
7250

## Northern Region (NT)

**Darwin** Nightcliff Community  
Centre, Bauhinia Street,  
Nightcliff. NT 0810.  
(08) 8948-5202. PO Box 40760  
Casuarina 0811.

**Alice Springs** 24 hrs. phone(08)  
8953 0802 (08) 8955 0031, (08)  
8955 0628

**Katherine** Phone 0427 712 443.

## Western Region (WA)

**Perth** Room 2, Claisebrook  
Lotteries House 33 Moore St East  
Perth 6004.  
Phone (08) 9325 3566;  
(08) 9325 3209.

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email: gso@aa.org.au  
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