

PI PATTTER

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Volume 4 Issue 7

July 2016

The Road to Villawood



Villawood Detention Centre. is run by the Dept of Immigration and people are held in there for all sorts of reasons relating to visas. Almost a year ago we **received an email from a detainee**. I **contacted a member** who went in to see the detainee and got talking to one of the staff members. **He then received a call from the psychiatrist** who asked if it would be possible to start an AA meeting in there. The call then went out for members willing to participate. **Unfortunately there has been very little enthusiasm** for this particular 12th step work but the original **member persisted** and, with strong support from the psychiatrist, **AA is now able to help more than one man in there**. Many of the men seeking our help will not be allowed to remain in Australia and will be returned to countries where alcoholism results in extreme punishment. It is so important that these men get help to remain sober. It's not easy to get into Villawood but **if you want to help let Leigh know and she'll put you in touch with the member**



COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS + ACTION = RESULT !



FIJIAN FEEDBACK

Many thanks

Mariah R

As I was asking permission from the author to reprint this , she sent me a message saying that she was on **Vanua Levu** as we spoke, with AA materials !!!!!



Please share my stories with everyone especially the Australia Asia! They are a huge part of this miracle! **(Letter received from a new member from Fiji)** Is it beyond chance that the daughter of an alcoholic has 12 stepped her father and reignited the flame...and that there are others.

On the island **Vanua Levu**.... an AA priest carried the message about 29 years ago.... and the spark was carried back to them by a young lady who attended the **"Fellowship in Fiji Convention"**! **We** will help start this meeting again. The computer donated by John can be used for this, as they need a strong system to hook up from there. Also I will be seeking funds to bring a group again to Vanua Levu... Higher Power sure rocks ...never doubt that miracles do still occur! Read on for her experience The reaction of my parents took me by surprise. When I started sharing my recovery experience with them, they were blown away. My father said that I have given him a new life. He just couldn't get over it. My sharing has renewed his faith in the AA program. Brought him a lot of memories from when he started out in the program. We kept sharing the whole weekend. He couldn't get enough. He dug out his old AA material and has started reading again. Its just amazing how he responded to my stories of the struggles and the miracles that began to happen. He **identified** with everything, slapping his knee and saying, "Yes! I know exactly what you're talking about! That's right!" **We laughed and cried together**. It was a truly spiritual weekend. My higher power was at work. He collected his old buddie and shared my stories with them. Some of them are his old AA friends who did the program with him some 25+ years ago. They were fascinated. He just couldn't contain his joy. I spoke with him this morning and he said that mum and him were still amazed by my coming in the weekend. They were still discussing AA whole morning when I called. It made me so emotional when I wake up early in the morning and listening to them in the kitchen making breakfast and sharing about the AA experience. He is coming back to the program. Once I get his laptop fixed and send it back to Labasa, he will get online for our Skype meetings. God is at work here! I am just blown away by what is happening right now to my family. They have called up my other siblings and **shared with them my experiences**, hoping that they too will join in the future.

CONT OVER

FIJIAN FEEDBACK

Yesterday, before our meeting at Bahai Hall, I spoke with my father who was still coming to terms with the miracle that has happened. His whole life changed instantly. He wanted so badly to attend a meeting that I decided to call him in through the phone during the meeting so he can listen in. We all shared yesterday as he and my mum listened in through the phone. He was so emotional because it was his first meeting after 25+ years. Last night his buddies came over to our house where he shared my experience, struggles and miracles yet again. He took out his AA materials and they all went through it again, rekindling what was brought to them years ago by Fr. Sigarara.



They have asked for more materials and maybe a chance to start a meeting there. Yes, I think it would be very beneficial for them to use the computer in Labasa. My father had given me his laptop to be fixed by my brother (who is also an alcoholic. His wife also). I went by his place last night to drop off the computer and they asked me to tell them yet again about how I ended up in the cell! Hahaha. I didn't mind at all. I knew something was about to happen here also. I told them the same things I shared with my father. Walked them through my experience, strength and hope. The struggles, the

miracles. Before I was half way through, they had tears in their eyes. I was overwhelmed with emotion when they admitted that they were also alcoholic and they were struggling to manage their lives.

They are keen in joining the meetings, at least once, and see from there. I knew the seed has been planted and that is all that matters. A power greater than ourselves is at work here. I am truly humbled.



PI Out and About



Imagine how much information we could share with the public if EVERY member allotted 1 hour of their time each week to PI !
Many members have at least that much time per week

Fantastic news ! The very first AA meeting in Villawood Correctional Centre NSW, was held today !
This was the direct result of the persistent willingness and action of one member Excellent result !
Many thanks for your service

One of our members has been able to help an American member regarding our CSAs . This was made possible by the forwarding of our Newsletter ! You never know who we help :) We now have a new friend, and he loves our CSAs by the way Awsome ! Service is fabulous !

Many thanks to the members who have facilitated service to the Practice Managers Association, following our request . Fantastic work , and it will open many doors for us in the future

I received my copy of the CER Newsletter yesterday and there is a very good article about communicating with Health professionals, if you would like me to send it, just e=mail me



COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS

+ ACTION = RESULT



Brand New Service Website !

aaservice.org.au

Some Power Point Presentations, documents, and New Posters have been added to the PI Section, check it out !

Contact details for the Caring & Sharing Library

Caring and Sharing Tape Library

PO Box 39

Beresfield NSW 2322

www.caringandsharingtapelibrary.com

E-mail: silky3@bigpond.com



Contact details for GSO

General Service Office of AA Australia

48 Firth Street

Arncliffe NSW 2205

Australia

Tel: (02) 9599 8866



COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS + ACTION = RESULT !



Find us on:
facebook®

Interactive SECRET National PI & CPC page

It is now over 3 years since we opened the PI Page on Face Book , we have 119 active members , and I like to think it has promoted a bit of UNITY among the PI people there

The room can only be joined by invitation, either by e-mail, or as "Face Book Friends"

If you would like to join you can either e-mail me @

aanationalpi@gmail.com

OR

"Friend" me on FB and I will add you when requested

This page is ONLY for PI related matters, questions, ideas, and Initiatives successful or not , there are other rooms for other AA business,

Pics of your PI activities are very welcome

COME & JOIN THE LIVELY DISCUSSION & SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Rule 62

*Don't take yourself too
seriously !*

**THE HUMOUR
HUB**



I stay healthy in summer
by eating fruit that's
garnishing my
cocktails.



someecards

I'm passing this on because it worked for me today. A doctor on TV said that in order to have inner peace in our lives, we should always finish things that we start. Since we all could use more calm in our lives, I looked around my house to find things I'd started & hadn't finished. I finished a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of Valiuminun scriptins, an a box a chochlutz. Yu has no idr how fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all ur frenz who need inner piss. An telum u luvum

Mary Clancy goes up to Father O'Grady after his Sunday morning service, and she's in tears.

He says, "So what's bothering you, Mary my dear?"

She says, "Oh, Father, I've got terrible news. My husband passed away last night."

The priest says, "Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Tell me, Mary, did he have any last requests?" She says, "That he did, Father."

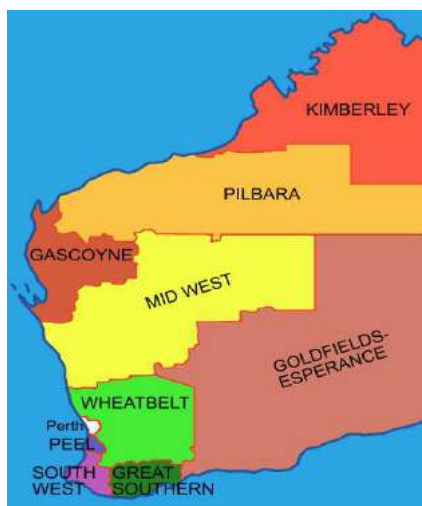
The priest says, "What did he ask, Mary?"

She says, he said, 'Please Mary, put down that damn gun...'



when i drink alcohol, everyone says im an alcoholic. when i drink fanta, no one says i'm fantastic





Western Regional PI & CPC Co-ordinator

Many thanks Di Thomas

The highlight for us last month was our presence at the **Generation Next conference**.

Fellowship members from both Areas manned the display information table. We spoke to many health workers, school nurses, teachers, school counsellors, etc. They were very interested in what AA offered for their students, and were **surprised that it was free**. One health worker assumed we hired speakers – our Contact Details Follow Up List was completed by **15 delegates, all requiring speakers and more literature**. After follow up emails to those delegates, we are now organising speakers and literature for 3 regional schools, one alternative education college (8 locations in WA) and a helpline. Both Areas sponsored this event with Swan Districts funding the literature.

Our **"QR Business Cards"** have been printed and are in circulation. Swan Districts have included these with the courts literature. And thank you to Sheonagh who has added the **QR code to our Community Flyer**. We actually ran out of these cards at the GenNext conference.

Following on from the successful Cyril Jackson School Health Festival (AreaA), **we now have a display stand at Kelmscott S.H.S Health Day (Area B)**.

Not only are we passing on our recovery message at these events, but both Areas are helping each other in various ways. This is **service, unity and fellowship in action**.

I attended the **WANADA Brekky Table** - Working With Youth - and afterwards spoke with both guest speakers (**the Fremantle Family Support Network** and the Drug and Alcohol Youth Services). The outcome was that Kerry I and Joyce from Area B met with and supplied literature to FFSN, and **DAYS has invited AA to visit them** to chat about what assistance we may be able to give to their clients. Sometimes the best outcome happens after the main event.

And the follow up

e-mail sent to members

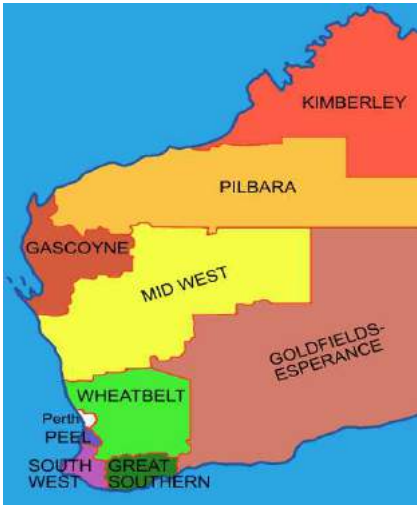


I attended a round table brekky on Thursday organised by WANADA. One of the speakers was Laura Roche from FFSN in Success. We had a lengthy talk about the AA recovery programme and our support fellowship. She would love some literature and a visit by an AA member to chat about how AA can offer support/help in some of the family situations FFSN are involved in.

Response to e-mail

Joyce and I went to see Laura and had a great share with her all about AA and what was on offer and left her with BB 2 little BB s and a lot of literature and posters.

COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS + ACTION = RESULT !



W A news continued from page 6



Feedback at the **Swan Districts** meeting from the new Monastery meeting GSR is that new members attending the meeting have come after their contact with our wonderful Court Liaison volunteers. **Well done SD for this service initiative**, and to those very few volunteers who have been attending now for nearly 2 years. We need more of you !!

And to follow on from there. After talking to a Lawyer from the **Mental Health Law Centre**, at the courts, Sheonagh followed up by sending a note in to that lawyer with the Community Service Pamphlets. **A meeting with their Social Worker has now been organised** for this coming Friday. She is very keen for us to go in and talk to her about how we can assist them with their clients. This truly is a good message for us to keep on keeping on.

What was remarkable about the **School Talk** we attended? There were in **excess of 100 students** present. **Well done Area A PI for organising this**. Also, we have found that in addition to handing out literature to the attending students. Giving the staff packs of information specific for them, also generates more questions.



What a great idea !

At the **Kelmscott SHS Health Day**, (attended by Area B) the students came equipped with a **list of questions** that involved most of the different community display stands, AA included. This was a great initiative that encouraged students to visit our stand and talk to us.

And a members reaction



**So grateful ! Just left Mindarie Senior High after speaking to 100 kids about recovery ...
The best things in life are free**

s to keep

COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS + ACTION = RESULT !

Service Opportunity

National PI & CPC Co-ordinator

This position will become vacant at the end of the year

If you are at all interested, you may like to discuss this with your Area, and
District

I have thoroughly enjoyed the position, and have learned a huge amount ,I
have had wonderful support and encouragement from my Service Sponser,
and from GSO

This position will be advertised in due course, but if you are thinking about it,
You may like to start discussing it about now

Job Description

BRIDGE: ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE & PROMOTE THE GROWTH OF PI&CPC ACTIVITIES

- Act as a positive communication link, through reporting, writing, email, the Service website, displays and the National Forums, between all parts of the Fellowship with an interest in relevant Service work;
- Be in regular contact with the Chairperson of the relevant Trustees' Committee in order to be apprised of Service opportunities;
- Liaise with the Board and National Office in seeking or conveying requested Forum-related information, and in implementing national scale projects;
- Send Short Reports on main activities and Forum progress (dot points) to the February & July Board meetings via the National Office with cc to the Chair of the relevant Trustees' Committee, and report fully to the Board and annual GS Conference in November.

NATIONAL FORUM

- Actively encourage Areas to have Forum hosting bids in for Conference approval two years ahead, to ensure continuity and certainty for maximum benefit to the Fellowship;
- Be a functioning ex officio member of the relevant National Forum Host Planning Committee (HPC): co-ordinate, attend where feasible, receive all minutes, keep in active touch with the HPC and report to the Board;
- Ensure that the Forum is relevant and attractive to the Fellowship in its content and activities;
- See that the Forum as a whole is recorded for posterity;
- Attend the Forum and deliver a report to the Service Fellowship on the past two years' activities in PI&CPC respectively, including both successes and shortcomings as seen by the officebearer;
- Act on and follow up any requests of the Forum;
- Ensure that the Forum Program includes a slot for a short explanation and questions on the role of the Co-ordinator; ensure nomination forms for the next Co-ordinator position are available and participants are aware of the this and the deadline of the end of the Forum; convey completed forms to National Office as soon as possible after the Forum.

COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SERVICE INFORMATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

SERVICE WEBSITE

- With appropriate training from the Webmaster, generally oversee the functioning and content of the relevant parts of the Service website; monitor the relevant section of the Service website and organise removal of any inappropriate material;
- Source and provide or upload relevant news sheets and items for reading on line or download, such as position advertisements, notices, reports, literature lists, Guidelines, newsletters and other useful information;
- Distribute questions from on-line 'Ask-it Basket' to appropriate knowledge-bearers;
- Publicise the Service website to the Fellowship including at the Forums and through the AA Around Australia newsletters, and assist the Fellowship to access the site when requested.

DISPLAY

- Be familiar with and promote the full range of relevant Service literature;
- Put together a light Service display and take it take around the country to be shown at Forums, weekends and rallies etc.

Nowhere near as scary as it looks

DISTRICT DOINGS

Many thanks
Tami

Ipswich and Lockyer valley



The Ipswich and Lockyer valley **public information committee** held our first professionals luncheon at the metro international hotel function room. We had 11 professionals and 18 AA members, the professionals Included:

- THE CEO OF WEST MORTON HOSPITAL - SUE MKEE
- CHIEF SUPERINTENDANT FOR QLD AMBULANCE SERVICE
- ROSIES REPRESENTATIVE
- ASSISTANT DIRECTORER FOR JACARANDA HOUSE
- REPRESENTATIVES FROM DEPT OF CORRECTIONS
- ACTING INSPECTOR QPS
- SENIOR PRACTICIONER FOR LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

Our world delegate Tony was our MC and Alison from Boonah opened the luncheon with her story. The feedback was they found the sharing part of the luncheon very interesting and insightful.

Following this Brian S did a 20min presentation with the main focus being what AA does and doesn't do and how we can cooperate with outside services.

The **primary goal** of hosting this luncheon for community leaders/local service providers was to:

- Break down pre-existing stigmas/preconceived ideas of what an alcoholic is?
- Provide an overview of AA and the fellowship
- Increase the confidence of these services to invite AA into their array of services offered either to their workplace/clients. AND MAKE REFERENCE TO AA
- Increase awareness of AA

The **outcome** of this luncheon allowed links to be made and many opportunities for service work and potential 12 step calls.

The common theme which was highlighted by a number of service providers was the use of alcohol by staff in these services. It was identified that staff in highly stressful situations were using alcohol after work and returning to their shifts the next morning still under the influence. They were more interested in having AA members into the workplace to address their staff, which we found exciting.

There were many opportunities that were identified also for AA to assist



COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS + ACTION = RESULT !

DISTRICT DOINGS

Ipswich and Lockyer valley

Many thanks
Tami

Soberfest Success

The **Ipswich and Lockyer Valley AA Soberfest** was held on Fri 17 and Sat 18 June 2016. As part of the Soberfest activities, a **Public Information Luncheon** was held on the Friday. Eleven invited guests attended, from the **health and community services** sector, and 16 AA members along with them. A presentation on AA was given by Brian S and Tony, the world public information delegate, was the Master of Ceremonies for the luncheon. In addition, Alison from Boonah shared her personal ID story, everyone enjoyed a two course lunch and a question and answer session was held at the end. All invited guests were given a copy of the big book and were given the opportunity to have one on one discussion with members concerning how AA could assist both their work places and the client target groups. The luncheon was deemed to be a great success and a **substantial amount of follow up work has been generated**.

Following this, on the Friday evening, the Soberfest Team put on a **"movie night"**, showing "Bill's Story". The committee sold popcorn, lolly bags and cold drinks. The money raised was to help cover the costs of the professionals' luncheon. The evening was a fabulous close to a successful first day of Soberfest activities.

On Saturday, the activities planned included three consecutive rolling meetings. The first was a beginners meeting, run by Denmark hill. The topic being XXXXXXXX. Lunch was organised by Graham and Gerry from Minden. The Ipswich Soberfest team would like to thank Minden for their wonderful support in doing this. A five dollar donation for lunch helped to cover the costs. After lunch, Ipswich Daily reflections hosted the first afternoon meeting, "We are not a glum lot". The days' final meeting was held by Ipswich uniting and was a "spiritual concepts meeting". Finally, the day closed with a raffle and a sobriety countdown.

Attendance at this year's Soberfest was great. We had members from Cairns, Byron Bay, Toowoomba, Minden, Brisbane, Ipswich and XXXXXXXX. Fundraising activities included raffles, with prizes kindly donated by Tamie from Ipswich Daily reflections, the sale of lolly bags and drinks. All funds raised are for Public information to assist in covering some costs for the 2016 luncheon and to go towards Soberfest in 2017. **Soberfest 2016 was deemed a great success and the Soberfest and Public Information committee would like to thank everyone who supported this year's activities.**



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DISTRICT DOINGS

Area D—SR

Many thanks
Rhonda R

It has been a busy month again.

I went along to the **Wyndham District Founders Day Event** since the last Patter. This included a PI Talk by a Medical Practitioner who works at a Private Clinic. There were some Professional people who came along which was fantastic as it was a Saturday. It was a great Day and about 60 people attended. This included 2 brand new people off the street. Thankyou Wyndham District for putting on the Day.

I also attended **Ballarat PI meeting**. We had a good discussion about **how to** host a PI Luncheon. I was able to share the experiences of other States and Districts. Thank you to everyone for contributing to the patter. It just shows by sharing the information we can really help each other.

An update on the recent AAPN (**Association of Practice Nurses**) **Convention** held in Melbourne. As a result of this convention Members in **Newcastle** and **Bundaberg** are speaking at **Practice Managers Days** in their Area. Also in **Western Australia** AA will have a table at one of the **Practice Managers Training Days**. These Practices have many Doctors so getting the Literature in to the clinics is fantastic. Great work and many thanks to all involved for actioning the requests.

Geelong District has a vast area to cover. All along the Surf Coast and onto the Great Ocean Road. A beautiful part of Australia. The Pi Co-Ordinator there does a great job and the different groups **regularly go** to Chemists, Doctors, Libraries (Big Books) Community Centres, and Aboriginal Community centre, Caravan Parks, Hotels, Salvation Army, Medical Centres, Men's Shed, Police, Churches and Police Stations. Many thanks to all the groups who take the Literature and to the co-coordinator who keeps a great record of what goes where. Also one of the Torquay members has approached **5 local radio stations** and as a result radio station **OCR (Colac region)** is playing our Community Announcements. Also Geelong members regularly go to **2 residential rehabs** and **1 day Hab**. A huge thank you to the member who organizes the Rosters. It is not an easy job.

Update from Australian Association of Practice Nurses Convention

AA is speaking to Practice Managers in Newcastle and Bundaberg. Also just confirmed AA is going to be present at a Practice Managers training Day in Perth. There will be over 30 Practice Managers present. Some of the Medical Centres have more than 10 Doctors. So for us to be able to talk to these Professionals and give them Literature is huge. I have just had an email from The Regional Pi Coordinator in Perth. She is so excited to be taking part in these training days and **AA is being invited to attend many more of these days next year in WA**. All this because the members in Area D have made contributions to PI through their Districts, Groups and of course the amazing fund raising efforts of the members so we could attend these Professional Expos and give out Literature and make these relationships. We have the chance to reach so many sick and suffering Alcoholics through this vital Service Work.

DISTRICT DOINGS



Area D—SR

Generation Next. (Mental Health Expo for Young People Melbourne)

Not as big as last year. We gave out **55 PI Packs for the Professional**. Also this time we made up literature kits for their workplace instead of waiting to send them out. We had **post-cards** made up of the teenage PI Poster and **put the questions from the Message to Teenagers on the reverse**. These proved a great hit with the professionals. Out of the 500 of each of the girl teenager and boy teenager cards we had only about 50 of each left. Also we gave out **packs of 1300 cards**. We explained to everyone about the **videos on the aa.org website**. Also the links to stories. Many said they were going to include viewing the website in their classes for year 11 and year 12.

Yet again it has been re- enforced how important it is to **explain the website and the 1300** because people just don't know. Made some good contacts to follow up with an organization for homeless people, a local grammar school, and a practice nurse for a centre with 17 doctors. She went away with lots of brochures for the surgery.

A Melbourne council wants brochures for their offices. A local counselling service here in Melbourne wants Literature for their office and only one Interstate this time and that is for a school in Mt Gambier. It became clear that I should make up packs for schools and explain the format in writing of our school talks.

Most times the Teachers present were not the principles and we could only tell them we can come to the schools and talk to the students. My takeaway was to have packs specially targeted for schools in our PI Kit. Many thanks to the 2 volunteers who helped out today. They were brilliant. We had to start out at 5.30 this morning but came away feeling on a high. The two members who helped experienced this level of service for the first time. While they were a bit nervous they soon relaxed and were fabulous at talking to the Professionals and telling their stories. Both said don't forget us next time we want to come back again.

Swan District

- Engage with and deliver literature to local service agencies, Local Drug action group, Womens Health & Family Services, Metro Health Network, Midland St John of God Mental health Unit , to name a few
- Provide Literature displays for 14 local libraries
- Produce Meetings lists for Community Displays
- Place notices in 4 weekly newspapers
- Attend Perth magistrates Court 4 mornings a week and maintain literature stands
- Liaise with the Parole board, Mental Health Law Centre, and the Aboriginal Law Centre
- Produce business cards with the QR ode for acess to online meetings lists

National Convention Fundraising

Sponsor an urn & support the 2017 National Convention

Take it to your group or district

Donate directly to:

BSB 034-241

Account 405418

Please put your group or district name on the payment slip.

Your group will be recognised for your efforts at the Convention.

This is an invitation to attend and also a request for support with the fundraising for the 2017 Australian National Convention which is being hosted by the North Eastern Region next July in Cairns.

We have received pledges and donations from local, district and area levels so far. Some groups have foregone their donations to District/CSO etc. to make a one-time pledge or donation, other groups have organised fundraising events and donated the revenue that this produced. The Convention belongs to the whole fellowship of Australia and so we would like all groups to show their support.

With so many generous groups nationwide, even seemingly small donations quickly accumulate. Would you please pass this information through your area and district structures so that it reaches every home-group. It is a suggestion that each home-group makes a one off pledge, donation we are now exactly 12 months out.

Donate directly to:
2017 National Convention
BSB 034-241
Account 405418

Yours in fellowship

2017 Host Planning Committee



We will all need Coffee !

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