



PI PATTTER

Volume 4 Issue 6

June 2016



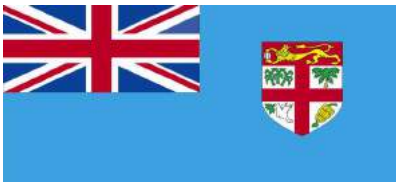
A.A. IS A SPIRIT. It cannot be touched, nor can it be completely understood. It is as wide as the world, yet small enough to fit snugly into the mind and heart of man. It has brought light where only darkness dwelt. It has given hope to the helpless and help to those who yearned in despair. It has nourished forgiveness in those who know no pity. It has given strength to the weak and humility to the strong. It has given greatness to the common. It has spurred to higher goals those who strove for nothing. It has brought to the destitute a home. It has transformed sorrow into a weapon of happiness. It has given purpose to the trackless and shelter to the lost. It has taught patience to the hurried and action to the slothful. To youth it has given - vision. To the aged - promise. To the lonely - companions. To the restless - rest. To the sick it has been a doctor. To the dying it has revived the desire to live. To those who have fallen it has been a helping hand. It has no judgment against the unteachable nor has it praise for those who learn. To the outcast it has been a family. To the childless it has given children. To the ignorant - wisdom. To the wise - tolerance. It has given to all man that which is most precious - it has given love for truth with enough left over to share with each other.

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FIJIAN FEEDBACK

A letter from our World Delegate (Term 1)

Many thanks
David E

Fiji 2016. From a world service perspective

Well it all started at a general practitioners convention in Melbourne in 2013 at which our fellowship was represented . Those doctors from Fiji attending wished they had AA in Fiji because of the enormous drinking problems they faced and were excited about the plans in place for Australian AA to hold its first Convention outside our borders . The results ,now being reported to our General Service Board about the locals who attended the meetings is very encouraging for the future of AA groups .The numbers of medical and professional people who attended the Convention was overwhelming for the interest and supportive attitude to involve AA in their communities . We in our country in my 45 years have not been able to achieve such a powerful result with all the efforts and exposure our fellowship has tried at all levels of service to get medical and courts and others onside with our recovery program .

In retrospect,it was so important to have a enough service members in attendance and our GSO staff , to show our structure to those of the public ,that there is a lot more to AA outside our meetings . We must always remember that AA service is voluntary by its very nature , and as a result our Chairperson Brett could not attend an invitation extended by the Fijian minister for health to a World Health Organisation meeting in Geneva . Service ,costs and our direction are always under the microscope in the fellowship and this Convention should be seen as a serious dedicated action of carrying the message and the establishment in another country in our region .I am very grateful to all those members who provided the planning and time to put the event together and our GSO staff who are so often overlooked for their involvement outside their normal work responsibilities .

I look forward to Fiji being part of my report at this years World Service Meeting in NewYork

The Cove has hosted the first **Mermaid Meeting**. Thanks Candy, Mariah, V.J.and Blackie Dog!! You all are invited anytime.



PI Out and About



WOW! had an e-mail from USA from a member asking how we handled our "CSA"s and if I could send for him to listen to !!! Have sent him relevant info and e-mail addy of relevant member . How nice to know that our message is spreading all over

Many thanks to members near and far who are helping follow up for our APNA contacts, much appreciated , it is a lot of work but so worth it :)

Good Grief! I just had an e-mail to let me know that our humble "PI Patter" is being read in Brussels among the CER members !!!!! Forwarded to them by an Ozzie member , how exciting !

Just saw one of our award winning community service announcements on seven 2
Brilliant



I
have put the new Conference approved Teenage Posters on the Service Web-site , under PI & CPC



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



2016 EASTERN REGIONAL FORUM



HOSTED BY AREA D

**Stapleton Avenue Community Centre
3A Stapleton Ave Sutherland
NSW 2232**

**Saturday
24 September 2016
9.00 am – 4.30 pm**

Theme: "FOR FUN AND FOR FREE"

At the General Service Conference, Delegates, staff members and Trustees have an opportunity for personal contact and a chance to clarify questions and share valuable experience. The purpose of Regional Forums is to provide – closer to home – similar direct contact and sharing among all who are active in, or interested in, service work of one kind or another. [GL-06 Pg.27]

All Welcome

Contact: Area D Delegate 0432 369 058 or easternregionareaddelegate@gmail.com
Contact: Area D Secretary 0490 516 041 or easternregionareadsecretary@gmail.com

Be part of Area D Public Information Sub- Committee

No experience necessary just enthusiasm for Public Information. Come join us to help co-ordinate PI activities and come up with fun ways to raise necessary funds to carry out our Public Information Activities in Area D.

Next Meeting

When: Sunday 26th June 2016
Where: Yarraville Community Centre
59 Francis Street
Yarraville

Time: 1pm – 3pm

If you can't come on the day but still want to be part of this exciting initiative then contact

Rhonda R
Area D PI & CPC Co-Ordinator
0439668212

piaread@gmail.com

Working together we can make a huge difference.

Don't forget your fun Fund Raising Ideas.

I am excited How about you?

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,

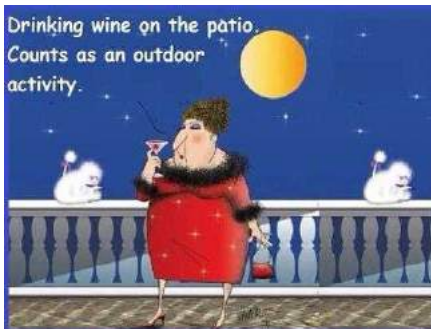
Pics of your PI activities are very welcome

COME & JOIN THE LIVELY DISCUSSION & SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Rule 62

*Don't take yourself too
seriously !*

**THE HUMOUR
HUB**



I went out drinking on St. Patrick's Day, so I took a bus home. That may not be a big deal to you, but I've never driven a bus before.

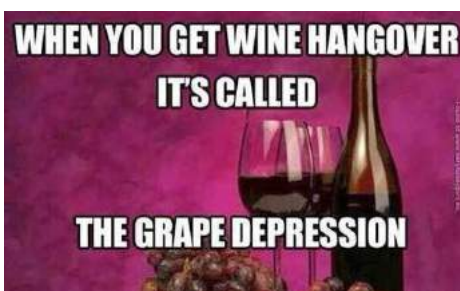
A drunk staggers into a Catholic Church, enters a confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing.

The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention, but the drunk continues to sit there.

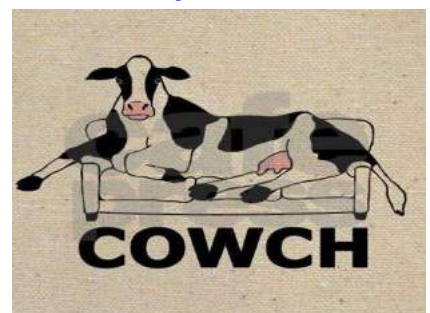
Finally, the Priest pounds three times on the wall.

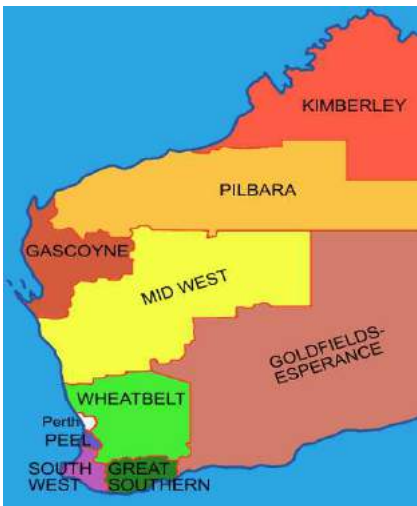
The drunk mumbles, "Ain't no use knockin, there's no paper on this side either."

A man was in a bar all day and he had to use the bathroom. He was in there for a while, yelling, so the barmaid reluctantly went to the bathroom to check on him. "Sir, what are you yelling about? You're scaring the customers." "Every time I try to flush the toilet something keeps biting my balls!" "Sir, please get off the mop bucket."



I don't pretend to be anything I am not...Except for sober, I've pretended to be sober a few times





Western Regional PI & CPC Co-ordinator

Many thanks Di Thomas

Coordinated and manned AA information table at Cyril Jackson School Campus Health Day - literature, banners, manning, etc.

Coordinated and manned AA information table at GenNext Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People seminar - literature, banners, manning, etc.

At each of the above events we had "Contact Details for Follow Up" sheets. I passed on to the National PI Coordinator those requests from other States. I followed up the requests from West Australia with extremely positive responses from the majority.

I was asked to Chair the PR Sub Committee for the 2018 National Convention. I attend and report to the HPC.

Attended and reported to Swan Districts (I still hold position of CPC)

Both Area PI Coordinators are newly elected. I have met with both on several occasions to give support and assist in their various PI service roles.

Inaugural meeting held with Area PI's and Area B Institutions Coordinator. Next meeting to include inviting those in service positions from both Areas who liaise with outside agencies, institutions. The aim is to support each other, share information on what each area is doing, and try to support more of our regional/remote fellowship.

Followed up on requests passed on from CSO: established monthly speaker meeting at SJOG Hospital Mental Health ward; request from Northam Immigration Detention Centre; Bunbury Prison, etc.

Each month I go through the WANADA (WA Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agency) newsletter and contact the relevant agencies that are holding events that AA could attend in some capacity.

Two events were too expensive to attend: Aboriginal AOD Networking Forum, and the Local Drug Action Groups' State Conference. 150 packs of relevant literature were provided to each event for the attending delegates' "goody" bags.

I was invited and attended my first quarterly AOD meeting and consequently invited to their future quarterly meetings

Literature and follow up provided to Headspace, Fremantle; Abbotsford Private Clinic; Foetal Alcohol Syndrome seminar;

Arranged printing and distribution to Areas of the QR "Find a Meeting" business cards.

Attend the Magistrates courts on a regular basis, liaised with the Aboriginal Legal Service, spoke to people charged with alcohol related offences, handed out literature, printed and supplied the Community Flyer.

Initiated the stamping of all literature by both Area PI's and Swan Districts so that the Perth website address, telephone number and 1300 number are also on any literature we supply.

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

ADELAIDE—Area A

Many thanks
Clinton M



The Long Lost Connection of the South .

Good news - as a result of some of our **Adelaide City** 12 step members willing to go to any length to carry the message of AAs 12 step program to the suffering alcoholic to maintain their own sobriety and have the hand of AA to be there. **Visits to the little Kadina meeting out in the country of SA Peninsula has began to bear fruits.**

Some of the newly sponsored members attended the **Open Day for the Community Mental Health weekend back in May.**

From that visit, invitations have began to come in for the new 12 step Kadina members to go out and to do their own 12th step work **within the community** for themselves.

I recently sat in on one of their group consciences while I was up there taking someone through the 12 step program.

I was able to offer them some of my experience with how to approach the community regarding PI for the community, which was well received by them.

The following week I **dropped off literature for them to distribute to the Detox at the Wallaroo Hospital and also the library and the police station is now stocked with literature.**

A 12 step roster was in process for **future radio opportunities for AAs** to spread the good message of hope & their group to outposts far and wide.

PI Posters have now been handed out for community notice boards, other pamphlets distributed throughout the area.

Local doctors & other community places have finally heard and seen the good works of AAs in action from the newly 12 stepped sponsees

. This has now set up new opportunities for other newcomers to hear and attend the recently formed Big Book Study as a direct result, which is now on at 7-30pm on a Friday night in Kadina.

The AA message is being carried from the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous, and now strong sponsorship is on offer.

The hand of AA is now reaching out to the next suffering alcoholic for them to find the solution on offer.

The Kadina 12 step members will soon **travel down to Adelaide** and be a part of one of the 4 Area A assemblies which will take place on the 25th of July to vote in our new Area A Delegate.

They will now be a part of, and witness the **service structure in action** which will then have a flow on effect to them and others as it was intended. It is a lot more than just carrying the biscuits and the banners, it's our singleness of purpose in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, so they may recover then in turn do likewise for themselves & for those that are yet to come.

COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS + ACTION = RESULT !

DISTRICT DOINGS

DISTRICT 9—Sunshine Coast

Many thanks

Brian F

The last week (6th-12th June) apart from being “Founders Week” was indeed a very busy time for members on the Sunshine Coast. This year Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland was the town selected to host the annual conference for the **Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RADQ)**. The venue was the Caloundra Events Centre which is a multi function room able to conduct large meetings, a theatre for movie presentations, dinning rooms and a large room for Trade exhibits. We also held a **“Fund Raising Meeting” with International Speakers on the night of 11th June.**

RADQ:

Alcoholics Anonymous had a “booth” in the **Trade exhibit room** from Thursday afternoon the 9th until Saturday evening the 11th June and were able to secure a prime position for this event. In fact we were the first booth inside the entry to the “Trade Hall” whereby every one entering the room had to pass the booth. The booth was manned by volunteer members on a shift roster over these days and **AA information was given to many professional people via pamphlets and communicating face to face.** There were two hundred and forty Health Workers in attendance ranging from GP’s, Specialists, Associate Professors, Professors and University Lecturers as well as forty six Trade Booths manned by Nurses and Allied Health Care Workers and Providers. The AA members involved had varying opinions as to the outcome of such an event IE: some thought it well worthwhile and a great experience whereas others wondered whether the cost justified our involvement but there is no way to really measure such an activity and we will never know who we have reached via this event. One great result was that we picked up three doctors to attend **the District’s Professional Luncheon** to be held on the 21st September this year at Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast. Contrary to popular belief Doctors do have a sense of humour as evidenced by them asking the waitresses at the welcome dinner to stand next to our “Banners” for a photo shoot. **An American Associate Professor who first showed us the photo then on our request sent it to us wanted to assure us that it has gone viral.**

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS:

Saturday Night of the 11th we held a **“Fund Raising Meeting”** where the two key speakers were Clancy and Mary from the Pacific Group in LA California USA. The appearance of these two speakers was made possible by the wonderful gift of a benefactor (John) who covered a lot of their costs allowing all money raised to go towards our fund raising for the Professions Luncheon. The night raised a total of **twelve hundred and fifty six dollars and after expenses a profit of eight hundred and four dollars** given to the District to assist in paying for the meals of those Professionals in attendance at our **Professional’s Luncheon** later this year. We acknowledge the wonderful gift of our benefactor which cut a lot of costs from this night allowing a considerable amount of money to be raised towards the Luncheon.

See photos over page

COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS + ACTION = RESULT !

DISTRICT DOINGS



DISTRICT DOINGS



Many thanks
Andrew M

LOWER HUNTER

Some members of the **Port Stephen & Lower Hunter** district have been discussing the chance we may have to attend a **"White Ribbon" Breakfast** in November.

"White ribbon" is an organisation of Men against Domestic violence and one of our lady members has been to several of these breakfasts and thinks it's a great idea and we will also be trying to get a spot for a speaker

Newsletter for Professionals

This current Newsletter is now available for distribution to your professional contacts

If you would like an electronic copy just e-mail me at

aanationalpi@gmail.com



Alcoholics Anonymous Australia Newsletter for Professionals

Fellowship in FIJI



Inaugural National Australia Convention in Fiji

The Inaugural Australasian Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, with Al-Anon participation, was held in Fiji at Easter and the event proved to be a huge success. The program began with a Public Information Day which ran from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and attracted 170 local visitors, many of whom were members of the Fijian professional community. These included the Minister of Health, a representative from the Fiji Society of Medical Practitioners, the Minister of Education and a Doctor from the World Health Organisation, as well as representatives from the correctional services and other local government agencies.

Many of the professionals in attendance had little or no prior knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous and were impressed with the information presented to them. As well as the formal presentations, the day's program allowed plenty of time for AA members to interact with the professionals and members of the public who attended. There was a sit-down lunch and catered morning and afternoon tea breaks, where everyone shared food and fellowship. Many of the locals who attended were able to do so because

of a fundraising drive held in the months leading up to the event. 'Sponsor a Fijian' was generously supported by AA members and groups in Australia and raised the money needed to pay the travel costs for Fijians from outlying villages and islands to attend the Public Information Day.

The success of the Public Information Day was evidenced in the fact that many of those who attended returned for subsequent sessions of the Convention and a lot of 12 Step work was done over coffee, or in hotel rooms. The Al-Anon message was also well received, and a group of Fijian women have committed to starting that program locally. For AA and Al-Anon members the rest of the Convention was spent in meetings and fellowship, made all the more enjoyable by the knowledge that we had fulfilled our primary obligation to carry the AA message to 'anyone, anywhere whose help reaches out'. The spiritual gift those in attendance got from the event was summed up by the Chairman of the Board in his closing speech when he said, 'we came to give and give we did'. There is no greater privilege in AA.



Non Alcoholic Trustees bring wealth of experience to Board

been fortunate over the years in having competent Trustees, both AA members and non-alcoholics, and the choice of Trustees is one of the most important factors in AA's future. There are no hard-and-fast governing qualifications. In general, there are certain things to look for.

NON-ALCOHOLIC TRUSTEES ('Class A')

When considering candidates for Class A Trustees, the Board looks for individuals with a track record in their own fields, with a demonstrated interest in Alcoholics Anonymous, and experience in working with its members. It is safe to say that the people who have made the greatest contribution and the greatest contribution to the time to the Board have been members of the medical and nursing professions, accountancy, law, research, people with the media, as well as those well versed in the business world. They have all made their contributions, not only in their own special fields but often also in the wider world of organisational management.

It is to those who do not share our problems but who are willing to share our problems is, going back to the beginning, Bill W. 'In the days when AA was unknown, it was nonalcoholic Trustees who held up our banner to the general public. They supplied ideas ... They voluntarily spent hours working side by side with us and the grubbier details. They gave freely of their professional and financial wisdom. Now when they helpfully mediated our issues.' Written in 1966, those words hold true. Nonalcoholic Trustees remain a source of wisdom and perspective.

experience of the Fellowship in North

America has shown the wisdom of selecting non-alcoholic Trustees as described in Bill's introduction to this Manual. We, in Australia, benefit similarly from their professional experience.

Since they need not maintain anonymity, Class A Trustees are also our public face, should it become necessary to put AA before the general public in any matter. They are often called upon to chair meetings and committees, to speak at Regional Forums and take formal roles at major Conventions.

The Chair of the General Service Board is traditionally a Class A Trustee, partly due to the public aspects of the role, but there have been exceptions where alcoholic Trustees have held the position. The Board will always seek to select the best person available for the task.

AA is currently seeking Non Alcoholic Trustees to join the General Service Board. Of AA. If you feel enthusiastic about what AA does and are willing to take on a leadership role we'd be delighted to hear from you. If you know of someone who has displayed professional interest in AA or indeed would be willing to donate their time and expertise in the fields of Media and Communications, Public Relations or Law, then we'd like to hear from them. In the first instance please contact the General Service Office on 02 95998866 or gso@aa.org.au



Would you be interested in having an A.A. presentation at one of your professional gatherings? Or would you like information about recovery from alcoholism in A.A.? If so, please contact

General Service Office of AA
48 Firth St Arncliffe 2205
Ph: 02 95998866
Fax: 02 95998844
Email: gso@aa.org.au

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DISTRICT DOINGS

AREA D—ER

Many thanks

Kate R

Area D Members Carry the AA Message at National Thank You Day Event, Sydney NSW

Rain did not deter AA members from setting up a stall at the annual **Thank You Day event** held in Camden NSW May 27th. The weather improved and the sun shone briefly later in the day. As we say, it gets better. Several people, both stall holders and visitors, stopped by the stall to **chat about AA and pick up leaflets supplied by our GSO.**

The highlights of the day included a couple of chats with “live ones” and a member’s go in the ‘tug-o-war’ with anyone who chose to participate. One young woman and her friends filled in the “Is AA for You” leaflet, to much laughter. However, one of them was **touched by the AA message by our sharing our of experience.** The seed was planted for a couple of other passers-by who were alerted to our presence by their companions. Neither spoke with us, but we could see there was a reaction. A woman picked up the pamphlet, “Is there an alcoholic in your life?” and a local member on the stall had several conversations with other locals from **churches and other organisations.**

We AA members enjoyed the day and felt welcomed by all we met. Thank you for the opportunity to give back to the fellowship that saved our lives.



COMMUNICATION + WILLINGNESS + ACTION = RESULT !