

# B-Line

Canberra & Regional Newsletter for Alcoholics Anonymous

January, 2020

## Wombeyan Caves going ahead

**Wombeyan Caves Wilderness Weekend is going ahead despite some initial uncertainty with the New South Wales bushfires.**

The road to the national park has been closed due to the fires but planning for the weekend is going ahead for February 21-23.

Craig H from Sixth Chapter Men's Group said the committee was expecting the park to be open but looking at alternatives just in case.

"We are waiting for an update on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February," Craig said.

"The camp grounds haven't been affected. It is a section of the road getting in and out that has been closed and has got to be cleared of trees and other things.

"The feeling is that it will be cleared and it will go ahead at Wombeyan Caves."

The committee has looked at other venues such as Wee Jasper, Fitzroy Falls and other venues that may be available near Wombeyan Caves.

If anyone wants any further updates or information on the Wombeyan Caves weekend then contact Craig or Sarah on the numbers on the flyer to the right.

**The full Wombeyan Caves Wilderness Weekend flyer is on page 6.**



### WOMBeyan CAVES WILDERNESS WEEKEND

**A WEEKEND OF FELLOWSHIP  
AND FAMILY FUN!**

**2020**

**27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> 22<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup>**

### HOSTED BY:

**SIXTH CHAPTER MEN'S GROUP  
& WOMEN OF ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS CANBERRA**

**WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION.**

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### THIS EDITION

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For 'The Mixer'  
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delegate report from  
Eastern Region  
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# *The Mixer is looking for a new editor*

***The Mixer*** (for people who normally wouldn't mix) is looking for a new editor to take over the reins. Below is an excerpt from the former editor.

This is my last issue of *The Mixer* under the current general editor. To date, no-one has volunteered to take over the service role, so *The Mixer* will be in abeyance. The website and email will be maintained for a year more: if anyone is interested in taking on this commitment, please get in contact at the email below.

"I would like to thank that small group of members who have helped to keep *The Mixer* going for these last three years, including the committee of editors and the many contributors from Australia and overseas, including repeat contributors. We have had some great shares. In an age where many AA members have become conscientious scholars of the Big Book and other literature, I believe there is an important need for members today to share their own experience, strength and hope in print in their own terms, in the language of the heart, to keep the AA message fresh and relevant."

Email: [editor@aamixer.com](mailto:editor@aamixer.com)

## THE MIXER

FOR "PEOPLE WHO NORMALLY WOULD NOT MIX"

***The Australian Magazine  
of Alcoholics Anonymous***

available at:

**[www.aamixer.com](http://www.aamixer.com)**



To contribute or volunteer for service,  
please contact us at: [editor@aamixer.com](mailto:editor@aamixer.com)

## *Thinking about the great reality*

*'God either is or he isn't', AA Big Book, p53. Agatha B provides some thoughts about the great reality in this excerpt from The Mixer.*

**The term "Great Reality" is used twice in the Big Book.**

"We finally saw that faith in some kind of God was a part of our make-up, just as much as the feeling we have for a friend. Sometimes we had to search fearlessly, but He was there. He was as much a fact as we were. We found the Great Reality deep down within us. In the last analysis it is only there that He may be found. It was so with us" (page 55).

"The very practical approach to his problems, the absence of intolerance of any kind, the informality, the genuine democracy, the uncanny understanding which these people had were irresistible. He and his wife would leave elated by the thought of what they could now do for some stricken acquaintance and his family. They knew they had a host of new friends; it seemed they had known these strangers always.

They had seen miracles, and one was to come to them. They had visioned the Great Reality—their loving and All Powerful Creator" (pages 160-161).

In both cases it referred to my own personal discovery of God, a Higher Power, a Power Greater than myself. And from page 55 it indicates that it must be found "deep down within us."

In other words I must find, decide, vision my own concept of God and it's not found out there in a book, building or another person. For myself it's an ongoing process that is refined by my own experiences with that Power. I have been quick "to see where religious people were right", their conceptions and guidelines were perfect for them and the basics of many coincided with my own moral principles.

But in the end it must be me who chooses faith over fear and becomes God reliant, no human power could relieve my alcoholism.

# *Delegate reports from conference*

I recently had the privilege of representing Area B Eastern Region (ER) at the 2019 Australian General Service Conference (GSC), held at the Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel.

GSC was attended by Area and World Service Delegates representing the Groups; staff members of the General Service Office (GSO) and the Trustees, representing the General Service Board (GSB).

## **Purpose**

The GSC represents the Group Conscience of AA Australia. Its purpose is to:

- Ensure, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics.
- Preserve the integrity of AA's Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.
- Ensure that changes within AA are a response to the needs and the wants of AA Groups, not our leaders, the trusted servants.

Just as Bill W presented his ideas to the Fellowship, Conference attempts to achieve its objectives by discussing and determining outcomes for the ideas from the Groups presented as "Topics for Conference".

Group Service Representative (GSRs) inform their Area Delegates of their wishes for Conference Topic outcomes.

Delegates then vote at Conference based on Tradition 1, our common welfare.

## **Pre-Conference Preparation**

Preparation for Conference involved communicating with other Delegates, reading and asking questions about Conference processes, Concepts, Traditions, and the Topics for Conference.

I am very grateful to several past Area B ER Delegates who attended Group Consciences throughout the Area to answer questions and guide Group decisions on the Topics.

Very few GSRs turned up at the Pre-conference Assembly so it was difficult to know what the Groups really wanted, but I took what I had, and largely was able to vote in accordance of the few Groups who expressed their views at our Area Group Conscience.

On three occasions, information provided by other trusted servants at Conference gave me further insight into what was best for AA and I changed my vote.

*"On three occasions, information provided by other trusted servants at Conference gave me further insight into what was best for AA and I changed my vote."*

*Pip O*

## **Arrival @ Conference**

Conference Topics were allocated to an appropriate Committee for discussion on Thursday and Friday. Each Committee made recommendations to the Conference Floor regarding whether they considered the allocated topics should be accepted or rejected. These recommendations were then voted on by the whole Conference delegation on Saturday and Sunday. The outcomes of the voting are available in the full Conference Report. Email [delegate@areab.org.au](mailto:delegate@areab.org.au) for your copy.

Like anything in AA, discussions were highly spirited. A lively mix of laughter, respectful discussion and debate, and, of course, at times, moments of unrest and discord.

## **General Service Board (GSB)**

Mike E, General Service (GS) Trustee and CSB Chair, rotated off after serving a 4+ year extended term. Mike was replaced as Chair by Andy P, Central Region Trustee.

The CSB continues to seek a replacement for Mike as GS Trustee, and also has vacancies for 3 x Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustees who are an important source of wisdom and perspective.

There is insufficient commitment to serve at the CSB level. Conference opened my eyes to the importance of the CSB in maintaining AA. The CSB has not been effective in communicating its function to the Groups.

They are keen to rectify this and have committed to publishing a quarterly newsletter to better inform the Fellowship of CSB activities, service opportunities and specialist skill requirements.

## **World Service Conference**

The World Service Delegate (WSD), Brian S and Class A Trustee, Ruby J reported back on their participation at this year's World Service Conference in Hong Kong. Copies of their reports are available in the 2019 Conference Report on the General Service website [www.aaservice.org.au](http://www.aaservice.org.au)

**Continued on page 4**

## *Delegate reports from conference* continued from page 3.

### **General Service Manual and Guidelines**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition General Service Manual and Guidelines will be reprinted and available by January 2020.

The Australian AA Service Manual is now available online as a pdf version to permit ongoing review and updating.

This is always the most current version and can be printed or used electronically.

GSO are also supplying the Manual and Guidelines in A4 loose leaf in ring binder form for a fee.

### **Forums**

- The 2021 Combined National T&CF and PI&CPC Forum will be held in North Queensland
- The 8<sup>th</sup> National T&CF Forum 2020 will be in Sydney Area G.
- The 2020 National Convention to be held 2-5<sup>th</sup> October in Toowoomba Queensland. Registrations are open.
- Our Area B will be hosting the Eastern Regional Forum in 2020

### **Conclusions**

It was a tremendous opportunity to attend Conference. I found the Conference processes interesting and an example of democracy in action.

I was saddened to experience discord between the GSB, WSD, Conference Co-ordinator and Regional Delegates.

This seemed a product of poor communication and dredging up the past. I hope that with the new GSB Chair and a bunch of new Delegates, we can promote Unity. If we don't, we will certainly struggle to maintain our Fellowship and Recovery.

Several matters must be addressed including the 2/3 Group elected Delegate representation, communication between the GSB and Groups, and GSO Staff voting.

Like our personal recovery, our Service Structure would benefit from Inventory.

I feel strongly however, that when we are not getting what we want, we should increase our Service and understanding of the Conference processes. Become more involved instead of less in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

In Australia there is much to be done to better carry the message. The GSB is tackling a number of issues including communication within our Service Structure, digital communication and internet presence, cashless society, and PI&CPC and T&CF video clips for our National website. All exciting stuff. We need to ask ourselves and the GSB what the AA groups might be able to do to help.

I love Alcoholics Anonymous. My life depends upon it. Hence, I made a commitment to be a channel of peace. To look for the good, pray for perspective, patience and acceptance. It is a privilege to serve.

**Pip O**

**Area B Delegate ER Panel 61  
Spiritual Concepts Group**

## **Notices**

Save the date ....

**A Day in The Steps ...**  
(as outlined in the Big Book)

**WHEN: SUNDAY 15TH MARCH**  
**9AM - 3.30PM**  
(REGULAR MEETING TO FOLLOW AT 4PM)

**WHERE: WORKSPACE**  
**56-58 CLINTON ST**  
**GOULBURN**

**COST: \$5**  
**INCLUDES LUNCH, TEA & COFFEE**  
**BYO BIG BOOK**

**Hosted by Goulburn Doers Group**  
**CONTACT: PAULINE 0409 309419**

### **Become a B-Line contributor**

**We are looking for your stories:**

- personal
- group
- topic for consideration

**Email: [bline.areab@aacanberra.org](mailto:bline.areab@aacanberra.org)**

**Phone: 0422 591 344**

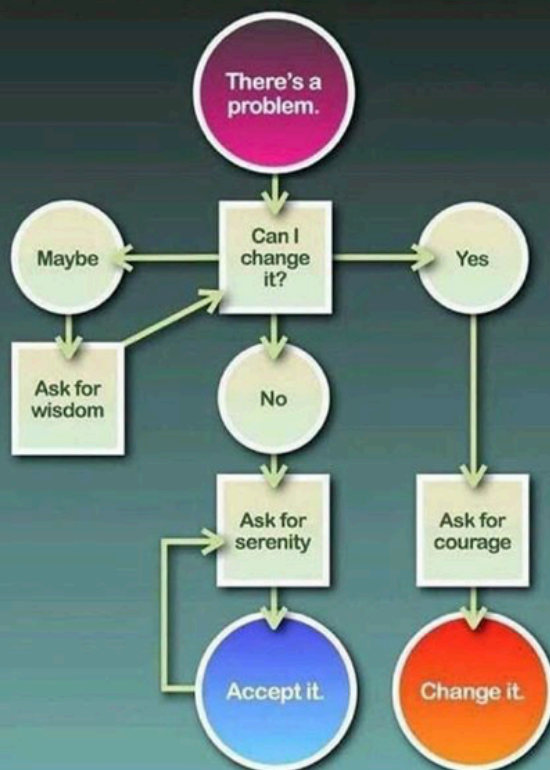


## 2020 Area B Eastern Region Itinerary

Typically, Area B meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month.

Area B Events	Dates	Start Times	Finish Times	Venues
Committee Meeting	Saturday 11th January 2020	14:00	16:00	Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley St Holder ACT
Workshop Assembly	Saturday 22nd February 2020	9:00	16:00	<u>Wombeyan Caves</u>
Committee Meeting	Saturday 14th March 2020	14:00	16:00	Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley St Holder ACT
Committee Meeting	Saturday 18th April 2020 *Easter 10-13th April 2020*	14:00	16:00	Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley St Holder ACT
Topics Assembly	Saturday 9th May 2020	TBA	TBA	TBA
Founders Day (10 June 1935)	Monday 8th June 2020 **Queen's B'day 8 June 2020**	TBA	TBA	TBA
Committee Meeting	Saturday 13th June 2020	14:00	16:00	Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley St Holder ACT
Committee Meeting	Saturday 11th July 2020	14:00	16:00	Founders Day
Committee Meeting	Saturday 8th August 2020	14:00	16:00	Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley St Holder ACT
Eastern Regional Forum	TBA - Aug/Sep 2020	TBA	TBA	TBA
Committee Meeting	Saturday 12th September 2020	14:00	16:00	Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley St Holder ACT
Pre-Conference Topics Assembly	Saturday 10th October 2020	TBA	TBA	TBA
Committee Meeting	Saturday 14th November 2020	14:00	16:00	Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley St Holder ACT
Post-Conference Topics Assembly	Saturday 12th December 2020	TBA	TBA	TBA

### The Serenity Flowchart.



### Greater than Ourselves

If a mere code of morals or a better philosophy of life were sufficient to overcome alcoholism, many of us would have recovered long ago. But we found that such codes and philosophies did not save us, no matter how much we tried.

We could wish to be moral, we could wish to be philosophically comforted, in fact, we could will these things with all our might, but the power needed for change wasn't there. Our human resources, as marshalled by the will, were not sufficient; they failed utterly.

Lack of power: That was our dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live -- and it had to be a Power greater than ourselves.

*ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, PP.44-45*

As Bill Sees It, page 315



# General Service Board Quarterly Newsletter

## Class A Trustee Vacancies

We currently have three vacancies and the Board has undertaken a process to fill some or all of them. Steps taken to date include:

- Asking the fellowship for applications
- Assessing applications
- Interviewing applicants
- Undertaking a Board skills survey to see what skills we may be missing on the Board
- Assessing and updating the criteria

We are now asking the fellowship for help to widen the net to get suitable applications in some of the areas where we are deficient - such as IT/Technology; Marketing/Public Relations; experience with Special Needs; Mental Health Services, etc.

The current applicants will be asked to update their applications to address if they possess any of these identified skills.

The Board is also mindful that the term of a Class A trustee is 5 years and it is difficult to have applicants commit to such a long period of time. At the same time, some recent Class A trustees have left after one or two years. A change in length of term would require changes to our Constitution and so the current feeling is to leave the term as is.

We are hopeful of making an appointment of one to three trustees at the February Board meeting.

Ruby Jones, our sole Class A trustee needs some company!

## General Service Conference

We have just completed Conference where many Topics were discussed. Some delegates rotated off, some had rotated on and an energetic, enthusiastic robust discussion ensued over the four days. We thanked those rotating off and we welcomed those to their first conference. A hard copy Conference Report will be made available to Conference members. The Report will also be available via our service website [www.aaservice.org.au](http://www.aaservice.org.au).

One of the outcomes of Conference was the Advisory action for Conference to undertake a review of its current voting structure, having regard to the right of participation, to identify options for change that would enable Area Delegates to constitute at least a two-thirds majority of the voting members at the Australian General Service Conference.

## Some Interesting Statistics

A report from our AA National webmaster that was presented to Conference showed some interesting statistics that the fellowship will be interested in. Over the past 7 or 8 years, there has been a big shift in the starting times of evening meetings from an 8pm start to either 7.30pm or 7pm starts. There is some evidence that this is a wide-ranging trend which affects other industries with cinemas and concerts also starting earlier.

## Bids

Thank you to North Eastern Region Area C for its successful bid to host the combined National T & CF and PI/CPC Forum in 2021.

Thank you to North Eastern Region Area A for its successful bid to hold a 2021 Regional Forum.

Thank you to Eastern Region Area B for its bid to host the 2020 Regional Forum (to be confirmed).

Thank you to Western Region for its bid to host the 2023 National Convention.

## National Convention 2020

Please get in early and register for the 2020 National Convention in Toowoomba. Go to the Convention website at [www.aanatcon2020.com.au](http://www.aanatcon2020.com.au) for more information.

This will be AA's 75th year in Australia – our Diamond Jubilee year.



## Joke of the Day

This came courtesy of Gabrielle (at Conference):

*Q. An alcoholic, an addict and an Al-anon were all in one car. Who was driving?*

*A. The police.*

## Thank you

The next GSB Meeting is on Saturday 15 February 2020 in Melbourne. Invitations will be sent out to local members via their Area Delegates to meet the GSB. We will endeavour to update you after this meeting

Yours in service,

*Andy P.*

**Incoming Chairman, General Service Board**