

Living the 3 Legacies - The promises will be delivered

Conference Summary
New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference

7th to 10th June 2018

New Zealand General Service Office, PO Box 68127 Pitt St, Auckland 1145, NEW ZEALAND
www.al-anon.org.nz
Email: office@al-anon.org.nz



*God grant me the
Serenity to
accept the things I cannot
change...*

*Courage to change
the things I can,
and Wisdom to know
the difference...*

Contents

Spiritual Goals for Conference	2
Board Chair Welcome	4
Clearing the air and announcements	5
Presentation 1: Anonymity in Tradition 11	7
Workshop 1: Living the Legacies	10
Presentation 2: Annual Accounts, Budget and Reserve Fund	13
Presentation 3: Toll Free Phone Number	16
Workshop 2: Public Outreach	20
Presentation 4: Website	24
Workshop 3: Abundance in AFG	27
Workshop 4: Maturity in Service	28
Traditional Approval	30
Motions and Trials	31
Outgoing Sharings	32
Notes from Delegates Meeting - Summary	36
Area Delegates' Reports:	37
Area One	37
Area Two	37
Area Three	39
Area Four	40
Area Five	41
Area Six	42
Area Seven	43
Area Eight	45
Area Nine	46
Board Reports:	48
Board Chair	48
Treasurer	49
General Secretary	56
NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO)	58
Northern Regional Board Member	60
Southern Regional Board Member	62
Committee Reports:	64
Conference Report	64
Editorial	64
Literature Committee Report	65
Public Outreach	66
Cutting Edge	67
Public Outreach Calendar 2018	73
AA Convention 2018	74
Conference Members 2018: Board Members	82
Conference Members 2018: Area Delegates	82

Thursday

The Conference was opened with everyone joining in the Serenity Prayer and the Conference Chair reading extracts from the 2008 World Service conference Summary – pages 5 and 6.

"Each and every one of us occupying each seat in this room is taking actual and spiritual responsibility for New Zealand Services.

It is our work to ensure that our groups are strong, our message is clear and a hand is extended in love to everyone who walks into a meeting unaware that they too will have the opportunity to respond to a spiritual call.

To borrow a phrase from the Alateens, '*Together We Can Make It.*' We can make it because we trust in the spiritual principles of our Legacies, we can make it because we have responded to the call of the Twelfth Step, we can make it because we are bound by the many bridges that ties us together in unity and in love.

Our fellowship's unity and survival depend on our conversations and our leadership."

Conference members were introduced to their Buddies and together reflected on the Spiritual Goals of Conference.

Spiritual Goals for Conference

Why have goals for the Conference?

Having simple and clear goals that are mutually agreed upon creates a commitment from the participants that creates focus, commonality and accountability. Our Board acts as custodian of the Twelve Traditions and our Conference is the principal guarantor of Al-Anon's and Alateen's harmony and survival.

We are guided by the Traditions and Concepts of Service in our service work. The idea is that the goals would support and reinforce these foundations and the purpose of the Conference. They would be reminders of the spiritual nature of our organisation.

These particular goals

Focus on the spiritual aspect of our Conference encourages us to take responsibility for the partnership relationship of the members of the Conference and also for personal conduct. This goal supports practising the aspects of Knowledge-Based Decision-Making, open communication between leadership and membership, dialogue before deliberation, all decision-makers having common access to full information and existing in a culture of trust plus our practice of presuming goodwill.

Spiritual Goal 1

"That the spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail through mutual respect and acceptable conduct of its members."

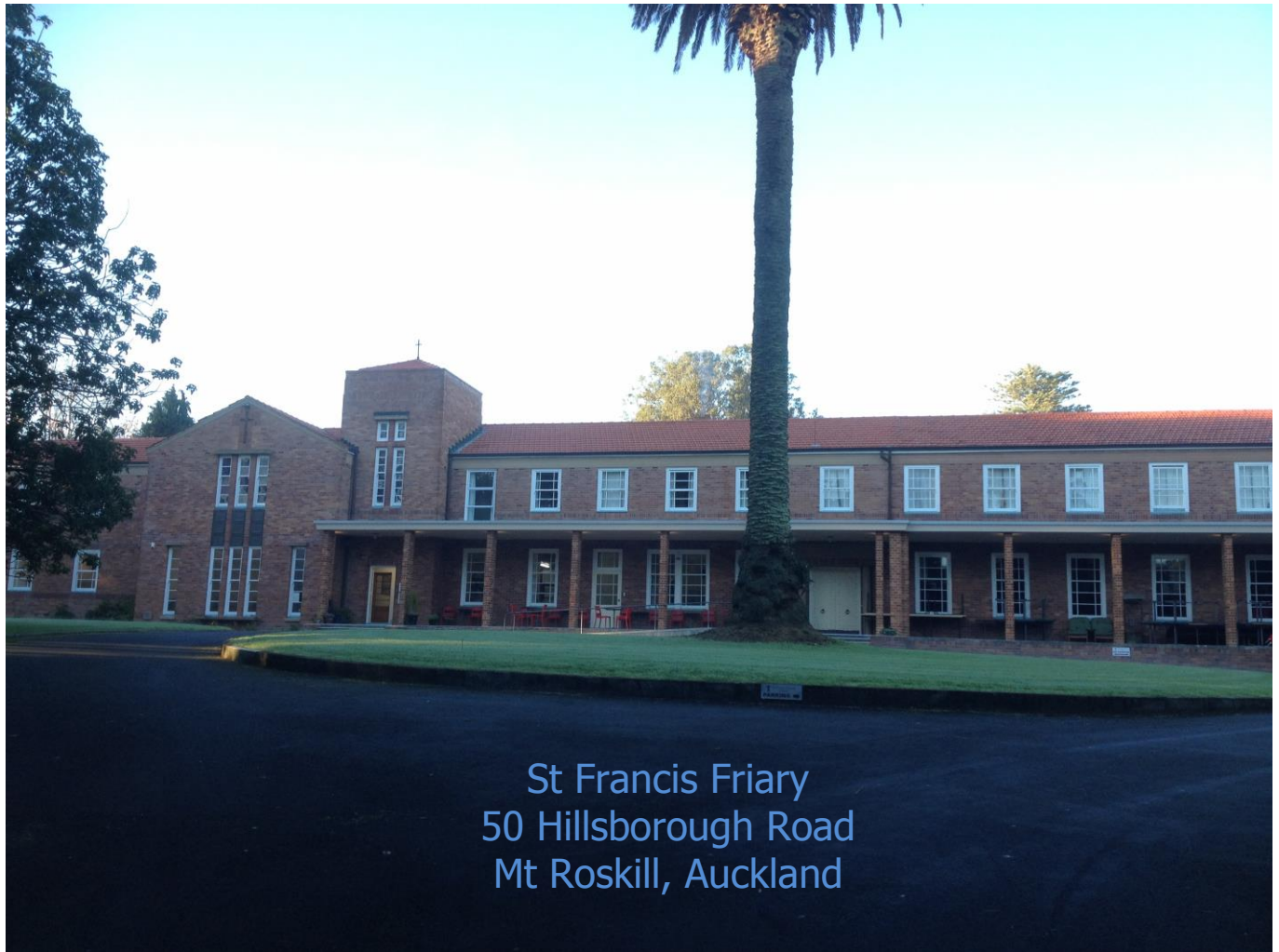
Spiritual Goal 2

"Conference members will understand the purpose of Conference, the relationships within Conference and be able to articulate Conference decisions."

Spiritual Goal 3

"Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience and we will presume goodwill."

**The above Spiritual Goals for Conference were
mutually agreed upon by all present at conference.**



Friday

The Conference began with a Skype connection to World Service Office personnel with full Conference participation:

Valli, Chief Executive Officer – The Chief Executive Officer of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., (an Al-Anon member) who has oversight responsibility for all functions of the World Service Office.

Kerri, Executive Director – The Executive Director with assistance provided by a staff of paid employees, volunteer Chairmen of selected committees and other volunteers handles correspondence with all parts of the fellowship to make sure that current information is disseminated to those concerned. Bilingual secretaries and translators are employed to help with foreign language correspondence.

Board Chair Welcome

On behalf of the New Zealand Al-Anon Service Board it is my honour to welcome each of you to the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Conference 2018 'Living the Legacies'.

Whether you are here for your first time, your second time or your last time you are here to represent the membership of New Zealand Al-Anon. An important task indeed. How do we do this to the best of our ability? We are honest, we are open-minded and we are willing. This is the H.O.W of service.

Conference is a wondrous service event. From my very first Conference I was inspired to learn more, to listen more and to give more, I hope you leave here having experienced that too.

It is one of Al-Anon's great paradoxes that if I want to keep what I have learned in recovery, then I have to give it away. Service at our national Conference is the perfect place and time to put all we have been freely given into practice and to give it all away. For fun and for free.

While we are here to see to the business of Al-Anon, as this is a spiritual program, we are guided by our ultimate authority: our Higher Power. Each day I will be asking my Higher Power to be with me, to guide my thoughts and my actions. I will be asking for God's grace across these four days at Conference that I might better do His will for the good of this fellowship.

It is my hope that the legacies come to life for you this weekend and that you might see responsibility, authority, harmony and leadership in action via the concepts, that you might feel the unity of purpose, the trust and the love through our traditions, and that each of us may demonstrate the recovery we have worked hard for through the steps.

At Conference 2018, may we listen, may we learn and may we grow in understanding, love and peace.

I now formally open the New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference 2018.

With love in service,
Sally-ann M
Board Chair



Clearing the air and announcements

- The Conference Chair delivered cards from Al-Anon members to conference attendees. These were very much appreciated and thanks conveyed to the fellowship for their appreciation of those in service at this level.
- The Spiritual Goals for Conference were read at the beginning of each day.
- Options were announced for the Friday evening free time for members to the new pop-up meeting in Remuera or the Friday night Friendship Discussion AFG Saturday night visit to NZAGSO or watch a movie. (Members commented that the Pop up meeting was fantastic, the fellowship was warm welcoming and sharing was great. Delegate came away with a lot of information to take back and share in her Area and likes the idea of the pop-up meeting concept.
- Conference members were given the opportunity to purchase the publication: NZ Al-Anon – From Gold to Diamond 10 Years from 2005-2014.

This follows the Gold publication NZ Al-Anon 50th Anniversary – *fifty years of hope*.

- The Conference Chair used a 'shoe' as a gavel throughout the conference.
- Delegates were guided to put their names down for a Select Committee, as they must volunteer to be on one of these. If they believed they have the capacity to work on more than one committee they may.
- Conference Chair introduced the scribes for each day and explained the reason for a scribe to be present throughout conference to make sure that the wording is correct and decisions recorded for the Conference Summary.
- The Conference Summary is important as it is the link to the fellowship and how others in the fellowship know what others are doing. It is our work to ensure our groups are strong, work is clear, and the hand is extended and to keep unity at this conference for NZ groups as they're the ones that tell us what to do.
- At the international Al-Anon General Services Meeting in Rome the IAGSM Delegate learnt that a lot of countries across the world have created different Apps and groups where they communicate with each other directly for service and fellowship. We are encouraged to look at Apps that aid in fast and free sharing of information that are not a public platform with no affiliation are another useful tool.
- Discussion was around creating awareness around how these could help encourage people to attend events in the area. Area Eight is looking to get a 'text tree' going to text group members. Looking to get approval from GRS and members that they are happy to get texts from the committee.
- The Board Chair and General Secretary explained the voting process for conference and when the RBM Nominating Committee will meet.



Conference Voting 2018

General Conference Voting 2018 (p54 NZ Manual)

Present: 9 Delegates + 8 Board members

Eligible: (voice and vote)

9 Delegates

4 Board members - drawn by ballot - Rana, Sally-ann, Chris H (voted out in 2017), and Tracy.

4 Board members remaining (voice NO vote)

Arnold, Melda (voted in 2017), Julie and Sam.

Conference Host (NO voice and NO vote)

Can make announcements and comments related to the position held.

RBM Nominating Committee (p48 NZ Manual)

CRBM 2018

Area Three - Liz A-S

Area Four - Margaret J (Alt)

Area Five - Patty J

Board Chair - Sally-ann

Drawn by lot

2 delegates - Marguerite and Helen

1 Board member - Melda

Sunday Motion:

"That Amadee R is voted in the position of Central Regional Board Member"

CARRIED

Presentation 1: Anonymity in Tradition 11

Jannene A

We are looking forward to giving a presentation on Anonymity in Tradition 11 at the June 2018 conference and have included below some excerpts from CAL to get you thinking about what anonymity means today, particularly with the introduction of social media and internet.

Safety and Anonymity

Tradition Eleven states that members should "...always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV." The Internet is considered a form of media, just as TV, radio, and films are, and members should not be identified by full name or pictured on the Web. Pages 73-74 and 91 in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual address anonymity in all forms of media. Remember anyone can find your Website. Review all documents thoroughly before posting. Never post full names and/or addresses. Be sure you have permission from a member before posting a contact phone number, first name, or personal sharings. Archived editions of Area or district newsletters should have last names removed. Full names should not be used as email addresses in publications or on Websites. Some areas use an email address system that includes the service position plus the member's first name and last initial. For safety reasons, never post identifying Alateen information. Be safe and follow the Traditions—never break anyone's anonymity.

Tradition Eleven: A necessary step in re-building trust

"...we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV." This now applies to social media too. This keeps me humble and prevents my ego from edging towards becoming the popular, or even famous, face of Al-Anon. No one person is in charge, or anywhere near perfect. By maintaining anonymity in front of the public, it also signals that we value anonymity for every newcomer. Trust (often destroyed by alcoholism) can be restored again. Then, we can chose our own level of anonymity within the program. I've also been reminded that as individuals we're anonymous but that the program of Al-Anon/Alateen is not. The Service Manual P-24/27 provides the necessary resources so we can understand these differences.

Summary

There are three approaches to anonymity:

Each approach to anonymity is different and depends upon whom I'm speaking to.

Personal: I decide how much anonymity I need. *My* anonymity is *my* choice!
Your anonymity is *your* choice!

Anonymity within Al-Anon: I may use different degrees of anonymity with other members including other members in service.

It is okay to give other members in service my contact details so that we can communicate with each other. I can give them my full name - my postal and email addresses - my phone numbers.

Rosters are often used to facilitate contacting members in service in various positions. It is important that I only share personal details with other members in service who need to communicate with each other.

If I am in service and am asked for contact details by a member not in service (or in service in other positions), I can offer to pass on that person's request along with their contact details to the member in service. That member can then contact the requester.

If I am asked for my personal details by another member, it is up to me to decide if I will tell him or her how to reach me.

Understanding Anonymity

Al-Anon Family Groups
Tradition Eleven

Anonymity outside Al-Anon: Anonymity with those outside the fellowship is much more structured for a variety of reasons.

Because I want to be considered a credible source of information about Al-Anon and Alateen, I want the media and other professionals to know how to contact me!

I use "AFG" instead of the Al-Anon/Alateen names on the envelope or in the subject line of an email message. I am protecting another member's anonymity as well as my own when I do this.

My anonymity is broken when my full name is included on a program-related report, flyer, or newsletter posted on an Al-Anon website that is open to the public.

When I use email to reach out to professionals or the media, I use my own or an Al-Anon related email address instead of my work email address.

I have choices when I send a letter to professionals or the media - I can use the Al-Anon name in the return address of the envelope.

I can sign a letter using:

- My full name, if I ask in writing that it not be published,
- My first name and first initial of my last name along with the name of an Al-Anon group or service arm.

There are different ways for me to communicate depending upon my degree of anonymity. I need to consider to whom I am speaking before I respond to them.

When I give my personal details to anyone outside Al-Anon/Alateen. I need to tell them about anonymity by:

- Explaining Tradition Eleven,
- Asking them specifically not to use my full name or a full face picture of me in print, radio, films, TV or on the internet!

We guard the anonymity of each and every member of Al-Anon, Alateen, and A.A. regardless of our own personal choice regarding anonymity!

This means not even revealing to relatives, friends, co-workers, or other members whom we have seen or what we have heard at a meeting.

At conventions, conference, and other meetings where not all the audience are members, the Anonymity Statement on page 109 of the Service Manual is read.

My anonymity is my choice! Your anonymity is your choice!

When I am speaking outside of Al-Anon, I can uphold Tradition Eleven.

The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual is here for me as a resource.

As individuals *we* are anonymous but the fellowship of Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups is not.

The conference members then took time to list how to maintain anonymity and how to destroy anonymity.

<u>MAINTAIN ANONYMITY</u>	<u>DESTROY ANONYMITY</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Use pseudonym➤ First name only, no surname at level of press, radio film and Television➤ Photos from behind, hiding faces in pictures➤ Not revealing who we see and what we hear at meetings➤ Not mentioning professions➤ Don't say you are a member, say you are an Al-Anon Family Group Publicity Coordinator➤ Read conference approved literature Read (CAL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Use full name at level of press, radio film and Television➤ Full facial photo with statement belonging to Al-Anon➤ Give someone else's full name and say they are in the Al-Anon fellowship➤ Leave meetings and tell best friends, husband/wife who was attending meeting➤ Have told acquaintances have a son who is alcoholic and goes to AA➤ If I meet with an Al-Anon member in public and I

MAINTAIN ANONYMITY	DESTROY ANONYMITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Talk to sponsors ➤ Ask permission to share membership and contact details ➤ Respect ➤ Don't post photos of other members on Facebook without their permission ➤ Don't use work email – Members' business email addresses should not be used for Al-Anon/Alateen outreach, as they could imply affiliation and may not be confidential to the member. (Pg 98 WSO Service Manual) ➤ NZAGSO return post stamp on parcels only has PO Box number 	<p>tell others how I know them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduce members by name and say they are from Al-Anon ➤ Not asking permission to say others in Al-Anon ➤ Tell others story ➤ Be known as Al-Anon Royalty by using full name in public

Workshop 1: Living the Legacies

Sally-ann M and Chris H

"For many of us, however, the power and beauty of the Legacies were not immediately apparent. At the beginning of our recovery from the effects of someone else's problem drinking, we may have found the Steps valuable, *but may not have realized how they could apply to other aspects of our lives.*"
- *Reaching For Personal Freedom*, Page 1

The CAL reference for this book is P-92. This workshop is based on this book. All of the quotes for this workshop can be found in this book. The subtitle of this book is "Living the Legacies".

Summary

The workshop leaders began the workshop by passing rocks to each other. Each rock represented a character defect. They shared a small example of how the defect manifested in their life. By the end of this exercise they were both holding a large and heavy pile of rocks (of defects of character).



A demonstration of the many rocks we carry around with us that weigh us down and how they can be swapped for a lighter feather when using the Three Legacies.

Toward the end of the workshop they each shared how they have used the 3 legacies to transform each of the defects (rocks) into an asset (feather) giving examples of times they'd used a specific tradition or concept.

Rock of **Immaturity** – using Concept 12 to gain the feather weight **Maturity**.

Rock of **Immorality** – using Tradition 4 to gain the feather weight **Integrity**.

Rock of **Ego** – using Tradition 1 to gain the feather weight **Humility**.

Rock of **Insecurity** – using Concept 11 to gain the feather weight **Balance**.

Rock of **Liar** – using Steps 4, 5 and 10 to gain the feather weight **Honesty**.

Rock of **Dishonesty** – using Steps 4, 5 and 10 plus Tradition 4 plus Concept 1 to gain the feather weight **Respond-ability**.

The 3 Legacies "are the spiritual foundation of our program. Each offers opportunities for healing and personal growth.

*For many of us, however, the power and beauty of the Legacies were not immediately apparent. At the beginning of our recovery from the effects of someone else's problem drinking, we may have found the Steps valuable, **but may not have realized how they could apply to other aspects of our lives.** Similarly, **as we grew in the program**, we might have understood that the Traditions could guide us in solving problems within our Al-Anon groups, and that the Concepts could be applied to problems at the world service level.*

We had yet to discover HOW the principles within the Traditions and the Concepts could be applied, at a deeper level, to our personal lives."

The 'HOW' at the heart of this workshop and indeed recovery is: Honest, Open-minded and Willing. If I can be these things then I am opening my heart to deeper awareness and deeper growth with the help of the 3 legacies.

This softer attitude/perception/state of mind that I find when I discover and study and apply the 3 legacies is what gives me:

- HARMONY
- RESPONSIBILITY
- AUTHORITY
- RIGHTS
- SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION

With these behaviours I have PEACE and I have FREEDOM.

Hence the rocks (defects) that were weighing me down being transformed through living the legacies into feathers (assets).

"Each Step, Tradition and Concept can be studied individually, but it is important to remember that they are all part of an integrated whole. Their principles build upon each other and are interconnected. Most of us, however, begin by studying the Steps in their given order, eventually moving on to the Traditions and the Concepts. In Al-Anon, however, we are each free to study the Legacies in the manner of our own choosing. Ultimately, the way we approach the Legacies is not as important as the fact that we are willing to make that commitment to our personal growth in Al-Anon."

Divided into four groups. Members were asked to each share about how they have managed to live the selected Concept both inside and outside of Al-Anon and, as time permitted, to do the same by selecting a Tradition and then a Step.

We focused heavily on the Concepts as this is a service conference and our focus needs to be on personal growth and healing through service.

Each group's scribe reported back to the Conference their group's learnings:

Concept One

The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups.

Inside Al-Anon

- Become aware of ensuring the group participates in decision making and is not down to one person.
- In relationships decisions are mutual and participatory
- Hand back the authority so the group conscience can be heard

Outside Al-Anon

- Everyone gets the opportunity to have their say
- I am not the ultimate authority
- All don't have to agree – hand the authority back

Concept Three

The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.

Inside Al-Anon

- Contribution of all
- Allows everyone a voice and to be heard
- Inventory meeting to hear the group conscious
- Allow voting

Outside Al-Anon

- Minority voice is heard
- Principals above personalities
- Non-judgemental discussion
- Knowledge based decision making
- Encouraging reluctant person to participate even if reluctant eg. Resthome care... Living is for them, involve them in the decision
- Kind grooming by encouraging people to participate
- Others can see qualities and drawing them out in others
- Mentoring alongside people - not to push a child down stairs but walk beside them

Tradition Four

Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.

Inside Al-Anon

- Suggesting the use of guidelines and ultimately the decision is up to the group
- Where I have spoken up at a group that I believe is not functioning – said my piece and had to step back not trying to force a solution – not affecting others so none of my business

Outside Al-Anon

- In the family with decision making, get input from children – can be great or not – can always change our minds if it doesn't work.

Concept Six

The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the Trustees.

Inside Al-Anon

- Acknowledge and appreciate the Trustees (The trustees in the group are the GR, Secretaries and others in service. Also the Board Chair, Treasurer, Literature etc.)
- Knowledge Based Decision Making
- All the Delegates have voice and vote
- Bring members issues to conference
- The Delegates make decisions but then the Board who are the NZ Trustees can override the Delegates decisions at the AGM.

Outside Al-Anon

- I am a trustee at home to share responsibilities
- While my children were young, my responsibility to get them to school, fed and clothed. As adults (young) it is their responsibility to get themselves to university, work etc.

Concept Four

Participation is the key to harmony.

Inside Al-Anon

- Serving slowly in the group
- Pull out chairs - gave me something to do – then gradually moved on to help more
- Chairing meetings and built on that, then went on in service
- No expectation but was encouraged and supported
- Became willing and read a lot
- Had fear but stepped out and did it anyway by putting myself out there
- Got confidence and people were supportive

Outside Al-Anon

- Before recovery, life happened - I learnt to participate in my own life. Learnt to do things, set boundary and time. Did it with my Higher Power.
- Couldn't express myself and be with people. Helped me get the confidence to participate. Take responsibility to generate participation in my life.
- What learnt in Al-Anon helped me in life to participate in my work, family and friends. Helped me to step out and take risks.
- Learnt to participate in groups with people I don't know. Helped me to take risks and be more trusting.

Tradition Nine

Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Inside Al-Anon

- In service – form a committee for: recovery days, serenity weekends, Assemblies, TEAM Events, Conventions etc.

Outside Al-Anon

- Gardening: let husband organise - lawn man, hedge man, fertiliser delivery
- Red Cross knitting group and Housie at old folk's home - forgotten about who organises because comes naturally.

Tradition Seven

Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Inside Al-Anon

- As a volunteer – important knowing money is needed, and looking at donations to find out where donation came from in GSO News
- Money to cover rent, literature and donations for Area is being self-supporting
- Volunteer to be responsible for the donations given my members at the group.

Delegates' Assignments:

- Get busy studying all 3 Legacies with my sponsor (if I haven't already)
- Work towards hosting a TEAM event in your Area and invite Sally-ann and Chris to run this workshop.
- As Area Delegate, run this workshop at your next Area Assembly
- As a piece of service, write a sharing on your experience of this workshop for the Messenger by the end of July

What else can I do?

- I can share about "Living The Legacies" in my life outside of Al-Anon
- I can encourage my fellow members to work all of the Legacies
- I can practice attraction rather than promotion
- As a group member I can take meetings on the 3 Legacies focusing on the Traditions and Concepts

Presentation 2: Annual Accounts, Budget and Reserve Fund

Budget 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 – Rana S

	Budget 1/4/18- 31/3/19	Budget 1/4/17- 31/3/18	Actual 1/4/16- 31/3/17
Income			
Donations			
Donations Area One	7,868	7,405	4,061
Donations Personal Area One		0	94
Donations Area Two	8,000	8,986	2,200
Donations Personal Area Two			60
Donations Area Three	10,078	7,900	6,034
Donations Personal Area Three		0	5,987
Donations Area Five	1,945	998	2,375
Donations Personal Area Five		0	471
Donation Area Four	1,238	2,330	664
Donation Personal Area Four			200
Donations Area Six	5,569	5,188	542
Donations Personal Area Six		0	140
Donations Area Seven	11,006	9,485	9,805
Donations Personal Area Seven		0	3,644
Donations Area Eight	10,475	8,736	6,957
Donations Personal Area Eight		0	2,441
Donations Area Nine	3,094	3,494	2,710
Donations Personal Area Nine		0	436
Donations Birthday Club	400	600	493
Total Donations	\$59,672	\$55,122	\$49,313
Other Income			
Interest/Dividend Received	1,760	1,450	1,272
Equalised Conference Contribution	5,850	5,400	5,700
Convention Donation	2,000	2,000	2,042
Messenger Donations	2,500	1,800	1,076
Total Other Income	\$12,110	\$10,650	\$10,090
Literature Sales			
Literature Sales	17,000	19,250	16,538
Postage & Handling Collected	1,190	1,198	1,038
Total Income	\$89,972	\$86,220	\$76,980
Cost Of Sales			
Literature purchases	9,000	9,095	7,507
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	2,970	3,161	2,213
Stock Adjustments	200	192	115
Total Cost Of Sales	\$12,170	\$12,448	\$9,835
Gross Profit	\$77,802	\$73,772	\$67,145

	Budget 1/4/18- 31/3/19	Budget 1/4/17- 31/3/18	Actual 1/4/16- 31/3/17
Expenses			
ACC Levy	75	75	40
Audit/Accounting Fees	200	200	174
Archives	50	30	0
Assets < \$500	200	150	243
Bank Charges	10	10	5
Board Members Expenses	8,000	7,000	6,320
NRBM Regional Expenses	500	300	335
CRBM Regional Expenses	600	600	0
SRBM Regional Expenses	1,460	1,160	494
Computer/Office Equip	6,700	0	71
Donations WSO	1,000	1,000	0
Accum Depreciation	350	750	0
Conference Payments	10,000	10,000	6,995
Conference Travel Delegates	1,500	2,000	1,938
IAGSM - Paid expenses	3,300	3,000	3,101
Postage	1,750	1,000	1,194
Charities Commission Fee	45	45	44
Printing & Stationery	3,500	3,500	2,172
Public Outreach exp	4,000	4,000	38
Rent & Rates	12,000	11,500	10,542
Repairs & Maintenance	300	300	0
TEAM expenses	800	800	538
Staff Amenities	100	0	48
Telephone/Internet	2,500	2,100	1,570
Volunteer Travel Fund	400	400	300
Office Administration	24,000	23,000	18,572
Total Expenses	\$83,340	\$72,920	\$54,735
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$5,538	\$852	\$12,410

Commentary/Things of Note

There are some changes from the 2017/2018 budget that are important to note:

Income

Donations

We have budgets (as in previous years) on a per member per week basis, using the latest group information. We have increased what we need to get from \$1.60 per member per week (2017/2018) to \$1.70 per member per week in an attempt to meet rising expenses.

Expenses

The major changes are as follows:

Board Member Expenses

These have been increased to \$8000 based on the typical flight costs for board members based on their current locations. All board members work to keep these costs to a minimum so we hope to come in well below this as we have in other years.

Northern Regional Board Member Expenses

There is a slight increase to allow for travel to one Alcoholics Anonymous Northern Area Assembly with Al-Anon Participation at the far end of the region. As the Northern region does not currently hold Al-Anon assemblies at the same time as these and therefore there needs to be a provision for this extra cost.

Southern Regional Board Member Expenses

A slight increase to reflect the costs of flights across the entire South Island.

Computer/Office Equipment

We have budgeted an extra \$6000 to allow for a reimplementation of the Al-Anon Family Groups website. This is currently only an estimate of cost. The current iteration of the website was implemented in 2011 and it has now become very dated and needs an upgrade.

IAGSM - Paid expenses

This has been increased by \$300, it seems the amount that has been budgeted for IAGSM has not been increased in over five years and the costs have been increasing.

Postage

This has been increased by \$750 to include the cost of the courier service being used to clear the Post Office Box twice weekly.

Rent and Rates

Has been increased in anticipation of a renewal of lease (due in July 2018) with an increase of 5%.

Telephone/Internet

Has been increased to include the potential cost of the national toll free service costs.

Overall Result

It is anticipated the overall result will be a \$5,538 deficit, largely this is reflected of the extra expenditure to re-implement the website and the fellowship currently has the reserves to sustain this expenditure.

Summary

Discussion

- The interest rate is around 3% - the rates vary at different times throughout the year.
- Depreciation rates differ because it depends on the item – depreciation rates are set by the IRD for different kinds of items, and is based on the useful life of an item (computers depreciate quickly, furniture much more slowly).
- The year reported is 1st April to 31st March.
- The \$16,000 come from two different donators (one is a one off - the large one - and one is a consistent donation).
- PO is important for more members, more money, more service, more Tradition 7.
- We have a budgeted amount per member per week - right now it is \$1.70 per member per week. Note this \$1.70 is only for donation to NZAGSO NOT what the groups/area level need to collect to meet their expenses/budgets. This gives a guideline for members of what to give. Budgets are also needed at group level. The past suggestion of \$5.00 is now not sufficient.
- This is the difference between abundance and slackness in Al-Anon. The basket is not for small change, recovery is WORTH more than loose change in your pocket.
- Dual members often only give spare change as they have learned from AA that it is a gold coin donation. That works for their fellowship, not ours.
- Technology can make a difference – suggestion was to have the group's bank account number available as the basket is passed, transferring money while basket is going around.
- Every time finance/money is brought up in an Area - eyes glaze over. Ask what the alternative is - how much do you want this program to continue.
- We need to lay down our finance structure and spiritual principles will apply.



Motion:

"That the NZAGSO 2017/2018 annual financial accounts be accepted."

CARRIED

Motion:

"That the NZAGSO annual 2018/2019 budget be accepted."

CARRIED

Presentation 3: Toll Free Phone Number

Rana S

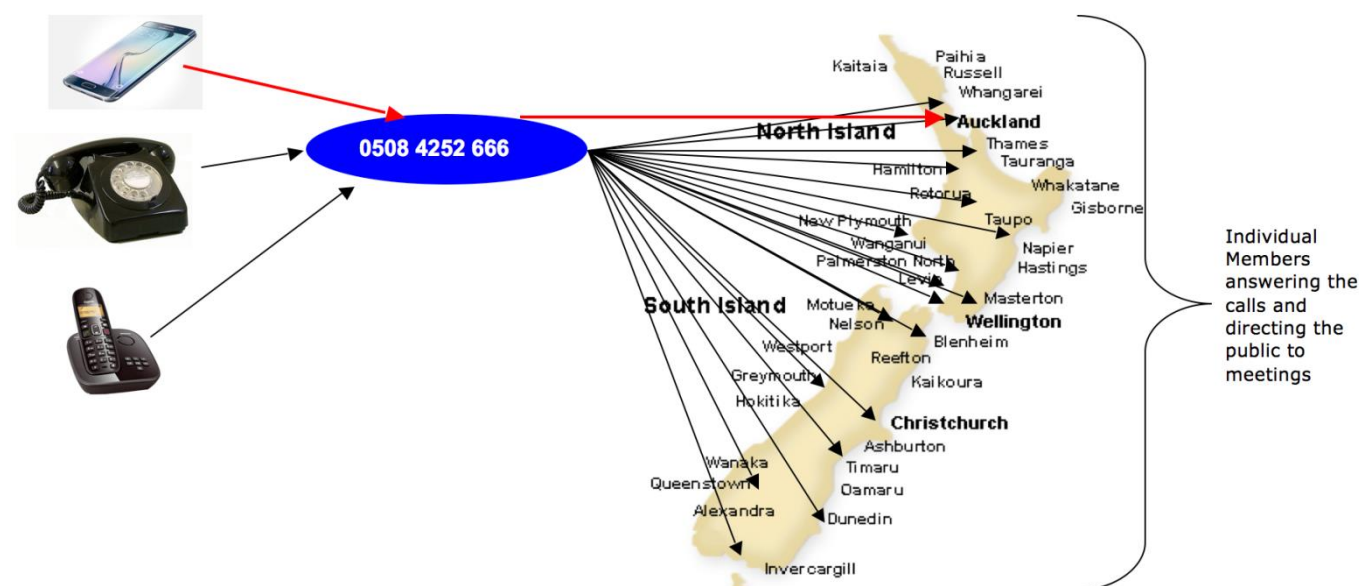
Introduction

At Conference 2017 it was agreed to establish two toll free numbers for a one year trial. The first (a new toll free number) was to be established as a number for members to reach NZ AI-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO). The second was to take the existing number (currently used in Public Outreach and for NZAGSO) and make it a number dedicated to Public Outreach and being geographically routed to local members to answer these twelve step calls.

In July a provider (2talk) were selected and the two toll free numbers were then created/ported and the online configuration undertaken.

How it Works

NZAFG Public Outreach Toll Free Number



NZAGSO Toll Free Number



Costs

Using 2talk's (GO800) product the call costs are as follows:

Basic Cost: \$5 per month

Change Costs: \$0

Call Costs (per minute):

Landline to Landline (National): \$0.06

Mobile to Landline: \$0.12

Landline to Mobile: \$0.12

Mobile to Mobile: \$0.18

Minimum Usage: \$0

As the call costs are per minute the costs to the fellowship on a month to month basis vary by the number of minutes actually used and the kinds of devices used to make and answer the calls.

NZAGSO Toll Free Number (0508 NZAGSO or 0508 692 476)

Now fully implemented and functioning perfectly. Statistics so far are:

Month	Number of Calls	Total Cost
October 2017	4 (2 mobile, 2 Landline)	\$35.54 *
November	18 (9 mobile, 11 Landline)	\$16.10
December	14 (5 mobile, 9 Landline)	\$8.15
January	6 (3 mobile, 3 Landline)	\$5.66
February	10 (4 mobile, 6 Landline)	\$8.72

*Includes initial setup costs.

References to mobile or landline are the device the call originated from.

NZAFG Public Outreach Toll Free Number (0508 4 ALANON or 0508 4252 666)

As of 19 February 2018 every area has been implemented (this has been gradual as we worked our way through the country) with the exception of Area 5. The lack of a Central Regional Board Member made it harder to work through setting up the areas in the Central Region.

The 21 geographical areas (including one for mobile phones) have now been set up with a routing to a member in that Area. The statistics so far are:

Period	Inbound Mobile	Inbound National	Total Calls Received	Transfer to Landline	Transfer to Mobile	Total Cost
September 2017^	19	4	23	4	0	\$35.27*
October 2017	8	7	15	15	0	\$ 7.52
November 2017	25	18	43	39	0	\$17.90
December 2017	16	23	39	35	0.99	\$18.80
January 2018	27	30	57	16	3.6	\$33.71
February 2018	36	40	76	43	12	63.98
			253			\$177.18

*Includes initial setup costs.

References to inbound indicates the kind of device the call originated from.

References to Transfer indicates the kind of device the call was answered on.

Learnings

During the implementation of the NZAFG Public Outreach Toll Free Number (0508 4 ALANON or 0508 4252 666) we have learnt:

- 1) When a member receives a call it is as if the person phoning has called them directly (the member can see the phone number of the caller), and there is no indication it came from the toll free number.
- 2) The regional geographic routing cannot be set up at the same time as simultaneous routing without significant expense increase and a great deal more work. This means that we can only have one person's phone number assigned to one location. This functionality maybe looked at in the future.
- 3) Geographic routing does not apply to mobile phones. After some research 2talk have confirmed they cannot geographic routing for mobile phones. This means again we can only have one person/one number dealing with all the mobile phone calls. In the interim we have established one person with the whole countries group detail to answer calls from Mobile numbers. This will allow us to determine how much work is involved in this and the best way to manage this.
- 4) Some areas have decided the best way to make the answering of the toll free number in their area flexible is to provide a prepay mobile (which the Toll free number diverts to in their area) and then they roster different members to answer it in a way that works for them.
- 5) Areas across the country have responded with a mixture of eagerness and fear. There has been a perception there will be a flood of Twelve Step calls for people to answer. This has not been the case and the call volumes are still relatively low.
- 6) It is better for the fellowship if the members answering calls are answering them on a mobile phone as it increases availability, as few members are at home long enough to catch many of the calls.
- 7) 65% of calls are still **not** being answered and the caller is getting voicemail and hanging up (this can be seen from the very short duration of the calls, where the call lasts less than 1 minute). This still means that out of 100 phone calls 35 were answered which is significantly more than were being answered in the NZAGSO prior to this change.
- 8) Porting of the number of Compass Communications to 2talk did not automatically cancel the Compass Communications account. They have now been given notice and our account should have been closed from 31 October 2017. Essentially we were forced to pay Compass Communications until we had given the required notice period.
- 9) 2talk require all accounts to be in credit and their billing system is not intuitive. This has resulted in an overpayment on one account (which has gradually reduced) and several underpayments on the other account which results in the service (toll free number) being suspended, until payment has been received. We have put some controls in place to manage this but we are still ironing out the details.
- 10) At the time of writing this report we are still working on some of the configuration of the NZAFG Public Outreach number to make it work best for us, specifically what happens to a call made to the NZAFG Public Outreach Toll Free number between 9pm and 8am.
- 11) It is clear that the fellowship in some cases are inconsistent in answering calls and a process of regular review (minimum annually but ideally quarterly), ideally by the areas to ensure that calls are being answered will be required. A review will be undertaken before conference 2018.

Summary

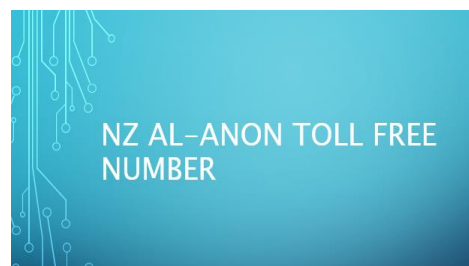
The implementation of the NZAGSO Toll Free Number (0508 NZAGSO or 0508 692 476) has been entirely successful and if it were compared to the service we used prior to this change we are in fact saving money.

The implementation of the NZAFG Public Outreach Toll Free Number (0508 4 ALANON or 0508 4252 666) has not been a resounding success, more of a whimpering splutter into existence. However the overall costs currently are low (in fact the combined call costs of both numbers are less than we were paying for the single number under the other provider). Call volumes are obviously increasing (as are the costs). We are still **only** answering 35% of the incoming calls. However there is insufficient time to gather data or for the fellowship to truly start using the number for Public Outreach it would be ideal to continue this trial for a further twelve months.

Summary

Addition/update to Report:

While it was reported that 65% of calls to the PO Toll Free Number were not being answered, surveys of the members taking calls revealed that they were calling back people where they knew they had missed a call. No matter what the rate of answering is still higher than when it was all done out of the NZAGSO.



Area Five had not received any calls, it had only just been put in place in March 2018 for that area and if they were not using the toll free number on their local PO they might not receive many/any calls.

It was asked why the service is not 24 hours a day? Using Tradition 5, we are not a help or counselling line, we are here to get people to a meeting that can be done between 8am and 9pm.

Some Areas (7&8) are running another phone line (09 379 4871), this will be retained until such time as it is receiving no calls. Over the years that number has been used on a lot of PO material.

Just for clarification the individual members phone numbers that were listed on the webpage page, have now all been removed, as the PO Toll Free number replaces them.

For a member who is receiving the toll free number calls, calls are rerouted to other members if they need to leave the country or take a break for any reason. All of the routing is managed in an online portal.

No matter how good the technology is, it is up to us. If there are no calls, is the number being used in public outreach?

A great comment from one of the members answering calls "best way to work to the twelfth step!"

Questions for the fellowship: Can you take a call? How can you and your Area make this successful?

It should be noted the number of calls (to anyone member) is not high, this does not require committee of members.

Currently there is no formal way to determine if it is getting people to a meeting.

It was suggested that the person who is taking calls for Auckland and the mobile calls needs to be relieved of some workload. A solution to the problem of geographic routing of mobile calls needs to be found. Technology is moving very fast and options will be considered as we progress. Currently that person taking mobile calls loves it, enjoys talking to people daily.

Motion:

"That the Toll Free Number for NZAGSO be continued for a further one year trial."

CARRIED

Workshop 2: Public Outreach

Tracy B and Sam M

Summary

Public Outreach Workshop SURVEY Conference 2018

We have an Area PO committee: Yes 3 No 6

Our most recent PO as an Area was:

Signs at institutions

Billboard in public area

Leave booklets and pamphlets in medical centres and libraries

It was a success because:

Potential for speakers

Size and length of time on display

My favourite PO tool is:

Public speaking

Road sign banners

Using the programme

Website

Business cards

A4 poster

Meeting lists in public places

How many groups in my Area are using the NZ road sign PO tools:

a) some 2

b) none 1

c) all 5

d) One Area to respond

I have read the PO online tool: The Best of Public Outreach: Yes 6 No 3

I encourage others to read and use The Best of Public Outreach: Yes 6 No 3

Using 'The Best of Public Outreach' what idea would you most like to work on for your next Area PO?

Targeting other agencies eg. Doctors' waiting rooms

Prisons using public speakers

The most successful PO I have ever seen in my Area was:

The 'Outreach Olympics' (a trophy for the most successful PO by a group in the Area)

Sad House campaign

Billboard for AA Convention

Public speaking of experience, strength and hope

It was a success because:

Size and length of time poster displayed

Anonymity for viewer of poster (toilet cubicle)

Planting the seed of recovery with experience, strength and hope



The workshop brainstorming on areas through presentation to get ideas going.

The Conference Theme - Living the 3 Legacies

Works into Tradition 11, personal anonymity. Talked about groups as a fellowship and getting the name out there to the fellowship. Step 12 – having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

What is the difference between attraction and promotion?

Attraction Sharing information Generating goodwill Cooperating with professionals and the media Explain how Al-Anon/Alateen works in our lives	Promotion Using pressure tactics Making promises Making comparisons or criticising self-help or professional programs for families Exaggerating or misrepresenting Al-Anon's purpose – that we can help everyone
---	---

Tradition Three

The relatives of alcoholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an Al-Anon Family Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation...

Tradition Three expresses our need to avoid affiliation with any other entity we don't affiliate but we do cooperate. Al-Anon is cooperating when it works with professionals in the media, and others in the public to educate to organisations and communities about Al-Anon and Alateen. And we need to make sure that the public can find Al-Anon Family Groups easily.

Al-Anon is officially a not-for-profit organisation, media will play PSAs (public service announcements) for free or offer discounted options. Banks/Newspapers/Post Offices will run community ads for free.

Area Three used the new public outreach tool, which is a poster with children inside a bottle with the wording "Not everyone trapped by alcohol is an alcoholic". Wellington has a pull up sign of the poster and are very generous in sharing if asked, however, if areas could go home and organise their own that would be great. The new poster can be used in conjunction with existing posters.

The Alternate Delegate can also do the Public Outreach Co-ordinator role in your area when this service position is not filled.

What Avenues can we use for public outreach?

Professional Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Councillors/Therapists ➤ Clergy/Community Services ➤ Teachers, Doctors ➤ Alcohol and Drug Courts ➤ Te Whānau o Waipareira groups ➤ Otago University Trainee Doctors – Talked about how Al-Anon symptoms might present ➤ Cutting Edge, participation in national conference for alcohol/addiction professions of 500 people ➤ Workplaces, staffrooms, notices on community boards ➤ Police, CABS, emergency staff who help person in crisis have monthly meetings, could attend and inform about Al-Anon ➤ Foodbanks ➤ Life Line, Youth Line ➤ Community Corrections that do probation services/waiting areas in prisons ➤ Youth groups ➤ Prison visits – speaking ➤ Higher Ground, Wings Trusts, speaking at institutions 	Media Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local Newspapers ➤ Local Radio ➤ Internet ➤ Articles/advice asked for on national news website and commented about AFG ➤ Can tag link to website in comments of online posts ➤ Coffee news free articles ➤ Shared link on a local community page anonymously through pages administrator ➤ Shine TV ➤ Neighbourly ➤ Council Bill Boards ➤ Online Meeting ➤ App with readings ➤ Closed social media group for internal communication
General Public Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visit local AA meetings in your area. ➤ Place meeting lists on bulletin boards in meeting facilities, churches, and hospitals. ➤ Local community/whanau meetings ➤ Put Posters/business cards out in community ➤ Prepare flyers OJ meetings and do mail drop locally ➤ Buy Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism and leave in waiting rooms like dentists and doctors ➤ Local paper with meeting day and time ➤ Community booklet free with local 	

General Public Section continued:

- ◆ CAB given 0508 and 09 numbers
- ◆ Victim support
- ◆ Police station flyers
- ◆ Community radio and TV
- ◆ Flag waving in the air outside meeting
- ◆ Road signs printed in A4 and A3 take to assemblies and hand out
- ◆ Bookmarks in library
- ◆ Article written with local newspaper about experience, strength, hope (using artificial names)
- ◆ Speaking at groups like CAB/community groups to educate general public

Reviewing how to get involved with General Public, Professionals, Media and the Tools that we can use.

- Al-Anon faces alcoholism available in English, Spanish and French, it is printed twice a year for one issue, sharings for professionals, teens and by the perspective from a range of people who have been affected by someone else's drinking. Highlights the importance of family groups and support. These can be distributed to health clinics, osteopaths, chiropractors, waiting rooms, doctor, practice nurses and all the places we brainstormed earlier, they can also give to AA members.
- WSO produce and distribute service announcements and 1000 PSA are sent to media stations throughout USA/Canada. Al-Anon PSA's have been ranked in top 10% of PSA's played on air, these can be a very valuable tool. Members and groups can find these on the NZ and World Service Al-Anon Websites.
- Al-Anon have our own podcasts that are created by WSO, recorded conversations aimed at users who know very little about Al-Anon.
- Introduction to Public Service Announcements played
 - <https://al-anon.org/newcomers/first-steps-al-anon-recovery/>

IDEAS for using the \$4,000 allocated for PO were:

- Expenditure, literature, and travel costs need to be taken into consideration for cutting edge.
- Al-Anon could piggy back behind AA ads on TV
- Internet based advertising on Stuff.co.nz and banner advertising, around the same time as AA ads
- Public Meeting/Billboard/Banners/Flags and distribute to areas to use
- Starter packs for areas
- Get Public Outreach Co-ordinator for each area
- Bus stop posters
- Read previous conference summaries (eg. 2018 Conference Summary which investigated, TV costs and magazine advertising.)

Download is available for 'The Best of Public Outreach' in a PDF from WSO website for your group.

The New Zealand online meeting has been running for 12months on Thursday 7.30pm NZSTD. This uses the internet and skype as a platform for a meeting. Dealing with anonymity, people can wear headphones and videos are not turned on. Audio feed only, do stop buffering. Leader opens platform 5mins beforehand, steps, tradition, concepts, and chairman's choice.

Meeting format gets emailed to all participants when they register. Encouraged to bring along own literature, use How Al-Anon Works, Daily Readers, no literature okay too – someone can read for you then the person shares. Person dials in from phone.

The meeting is on WSO website, NZAGSO website. Members email the Gmail address NZalanonlinerecovery@gmail.com and say I'm a member and want to join this meeting.

This has been in the highlights for Area 7 and 8 to tell people about the meeting. Please tell members of your group that this is available. Good for people who are travelling, can't drive, loan members or people who cannot get to a meeting. NZ Al-Anon Online Recovery is the name of the meeting. **The meeting is on Thursday's NZSTD time at 7.30pm regardless of if it is daylight savings time.**

Motion:

"The new public outreach calendar be accepted by Conference."

CARRIED

HOT TOPIC

The Area Delegate represents the Area at NZASC.
The conscience of Al-Anon can work effectively only if it is informed.

The Area Delegate is a channel through which information flows, bringing to NZASC the viewpoint of the Area on matters affecting the entire fellowship and returning to the Area with a broader perspective of Al-Anon. The Area Delegate is the servant of Al-Anon as a whole. (Page 27, 2017 NZ Service Handbook, PN-27)

Delegates prepared an outline of each topic to take to their Assembly, the main points to tell the Assembly and what was the outcome / conclusion?

Hot Topics throughout conference were:

Topic: Annual Accounts and Finances

Outline the topic for my Assembly:

National Treasurers Report about Budget and Annual Accounts

Main points to tell my Assembly:

We have an ample reserve that is healthy. Let it begin with me

Expenses are increasing, our group donations did not make budget

We had a healthy outcome because two large donations carried us.

The focus is on sustainability for the future of NZ AFG

What was the outcome / conclusion?

Financially futureproofing NZ AFG

Does my group have a budget?

Topic: Public Outreach

Outline the topic for my Assembly:

Suggestions for outreach action.

Where to start? Get the PowerPoint presentation

Main points to tell my Assembly:

Don't re-invent the wheel.

There are tools to use including a new 'social awareness' large bottle poster, great for Alateen.

If it's meant to be it's up to me!

Read the P-90 – 'the best of public outreach' free booklet

New condensed PO calendar.

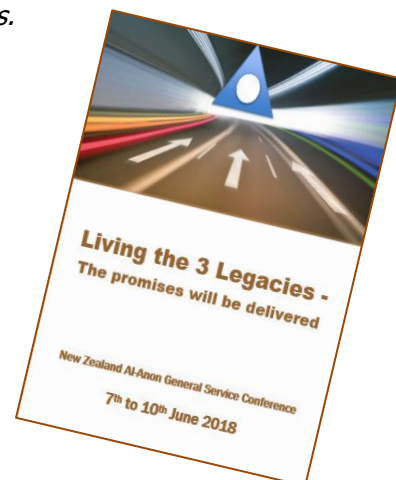
*Members are anonymous AFG is **NOT!!** (use online social media)*

What was the outcome / conclusion?

Create a PO Committee and groups create a budget

Attract new members

Activate your Alternate Delegates into PO



Presentation 4: Website

Chris H

Summary

The features of the website were demonstrated and talked through, focusing on the ease of using links to Al-Anon information, and the wealth of information available.

If the website address is not known we can simply 'Google' "Al-Anon NZ".

Home Page:

- The first links on the "Home" page are to the 20 questions for newcomers.
- PSAs (Public Service Announcements) are intended to help identify listeners as affected by alcoholism and are a very useful public outreach resource. Presenters suggest from different perspectives that Al-Anon might be able to help. The PSAs were made in the USA but voiceovers are done in NZ accents. Anonymity is protected.
- There are links to each of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service. These can be copied directly to ensure accurate wording to other documents.
- The header at the top of each page contains all of the several links to all of the other pages including back to the Home page.
- The footer at the bottom of each page shows NZ Al-Anon contact information and another link to the meetings list.



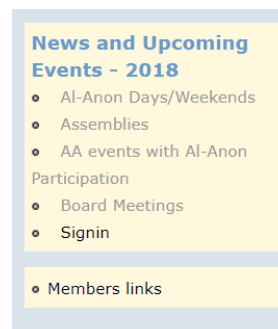
For help click here for a list of **meetings** or phone 05084252666

NZ Al-Anon General Services PO Box 68124 78 Pitt St, Auckland 1145 **OFFICE OPEN: TUESDAY TO THURSDAY 10AM - 3:30PM**
Email: office@al-anon.org.nz

- The "Alateen" page shows information about Alateen and directs people to available Alateen meetings.
- The "Links" page contains links to US, UK and Australian Al-Anon websites.
- Using a link to an external site first gives the warning that you are leaving the NZ site.
- Chris H mentioned that there are many online meetings available on the US site but only two operating via Skype, one of which is the NZ Al-Anon Online Recovery Group. That group is registered internationally but it is also mentioned on the NZ site, because it originated here.
- The "Meetings" page includes a map of the regions and links to each of those regions.
- Each of the links leads to a list of the meetings detailing day, time and place of the meeting with a useful link to a map to help users find meeting locations.
- The "Sharings" page contains links to various specific sharings from various perspectives - relevant to beginners.
- The "Steps, Traditions and Concepts" page contains links to each of the three legacies.
- The "Steps" page links to the "Traditions" page which links in turn to the "Concepts" page.

- The "Literature" page enables literature to be ordered directly from the website.
- There is a link to enable download of the current Literature Order Form and links to the various categories of literature available.
- Each of the categories pages contains pictures of the items concerned, each with links to a short description, with price and a link to add to a cart.

- The "News and Upcoming Events" box is in effect a part of the header on each page.
- Items cannot be listed on the website unless NZAGSO has been properly notified of them. This is particularly relevant for Recovery Days, Serenity Weekends and Al-Anon Area Assemblies. NZAGSO cannot be expected to "distil" information about upcoming Area events simply because a copy of the Area minutes is sent to NZAGSO.
- There is a protocol between NZAFG and AA NZ for Al-Anon participation in AA events. For example, the upcoming AA Northern Area Assembly with Al-Anon participation in July 2018 was not yet listed because no proper invitation had been received from AA.
- Board Meeting dates are listed on the website through to December 2019.
- The "Signin" link provides access to the old members' page for those who still require that access.



- The "Members links" page links to the updated members' page with many useful links primarily intended for our members.
- A password is required simply to prevent "bots" (web robots) from accessing the site. The "nzafg" password is clearly provided in '*Please enter the password "nzafg" below to proceed.*'

- The "Public Outreach" page contains links to many Public Outreach tips (including a link to the free downloadable "*The Best of Public Outreach*" (P90) booklet, a link to a page enabling download of varieties of the "Road Sign" posters, a link to a page of several "Public Outreach Tools" (including three PSAs) and the Public Outreach Calendar.
There are so many tools designed to enable us to avoid the difficulty of having to "reinvent the wheel".

Members links

The following links are provided for members to help individuals and the groups to help members.

[Public Outreach](#)
[Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service \(AMIAS\)](#)
[Al-Anon Conference Summaries](#)
[TEAM \(Together Empowering Al-Anon Members\)](#)
[Team Events planned](#)
[Service hand book](#)
[Board Appointments](#)
[Dual members in service](#)
[Hidden talents](#)
[NZ Phone list](#)
[Board Newsletters](#)
[New Group Registration](#)

- The AMIAS page provides a downloadable AMIAS "Profile Form" and an AMIAS Police Check Form.'
- The "Al-Anon Conference Summaries" provides downloadable Conference Summaries from 2010 onwards. Each Summary is searchable.
- The "TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members)" page explains what TEAM events are about and the protocols involved, provides a downloadable Application Form and includes Experience, Strength and Hope from Areas that have had TEAM events.
- The "TEAM Events Planned" page provides information about any planned TEAM events.
- A searchable copy of the "New Zealand Al-Anon – Alateen Service Handbook 2017" is available for free download on the "Service hand book" page.
- The "Dual members in service" page contains useful information for groups and members struggling for an explanation as to why AA members may not serve beyond the group level.

- The "Hidden talents" page contains a survey form designed to inform NZAGSO of the useful talents available within the fellowship. All conference members were asked to complete a form so they know what it's about and can tell other members about it.
- The "NZ Phone list" page now simply provides information about the NZ Free Phone (0508 4ALANON or 0508425266).
- The "Board Newsletters" page provides copies of recent Board Newsletters. The Newsletters are sent to Delegates after each Board meeting to share with the groups in the Area through the service structure.
- The "New Group Registration" page provides the form required for new groups to become registered.
- The Alateen 'rap' which was approved in 2010, is not on the website. Rana was tasked to have this put on the website. The 'rap' was played to conference members.

There has not been a significant increase in the use of the website since last year.

Discussion re Group registrations

- The list of groups not registered is not as long as it was last year, but there are still too many.
- Delegates asked to remind groups send in annual registration due by June 30.
- The registration process was explained.
- Forms are only obtainable from NZAGSO and can posted or emailed from and to NZAGSO.
- Forms for registration of new groups are on website, but not forms for annual registration.
- Delegates become frustrated when groups do not complete the annual registration forms.
- A group may be taken off the website if annual registration forms are not received because there is no longer any suggestion that the group still exists.
- The delegates present were asked how many of them had unregistered groups in their Area - there were a few.

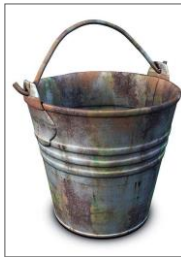
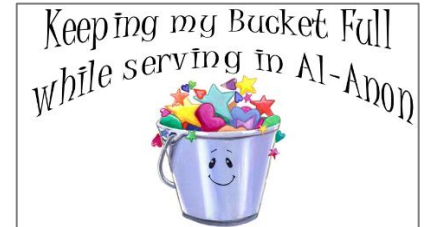
Workshop 3: Abundance in AFG

Melda T and Sarah R

Summary

Used an analogy of how to keep your 'bucket' full and shiny while serving in Al-Anon.

- Often come to Conference with an empty bucket - what would we like our buckets filled with? Ideas were: solutions, serenity, Chocolate etc.
- What empties buckets? Problems, how we respond etc makes buckets leaky.
- We start off as a shiny bucket, as time goes by it goes rusty and gets holes, gets harder to fill up, we need help.



How do we fill our buckets? The responses were:

With the programme; ask for help; attend meetings; read CAL; call your sponsor or service sponsor; work the Steps; do service; get alongside other buckets and siphon; pray to God; meditate; do a 4th step; be physically active; focus on solutions - not problems; love yourself; care for yourself; care for others; pray for others; hugs.

- The strength of Al-Anon, the bigger picture is seen when doing service at Area, National and International levels
- We hope all groups are healthy, but when our disease is at work, this is not always the case.
- Buckets need to be filled with tools and we should not be afraid to use them.
- Conflict not always to be feared, as it can result in change. Melda gave an example of how an unhealthy group can affect members: Some members of a particular group felt resentful and did not want to attend meetings because of the dominant behaviour of one person. Finally, a member wrote a letter about how she felt and then other people spoke up. The person at the root of the problems apologised at an Al-Anon meeting. One person spoke up and change eventually happened.
- Everyone has a voice and deserves to be heard.
- It's not our job to find solutions to group problems, best to come from within the group conscious.
- Abundant solutions: Once focused on solutions, we often find that there are many solutions to choose from.
- Problem with flow of communication between board and groups. Sarah started a Chinese Whisper to demonstrate how communication can go wrong. However, the group did well and the correct message was heard by the last person!
- The Board's function is to serve Al-Anon groups, back and forth communication is the key. 'Together we can make it'.
- Whatever you put your attention on will grow. Focus on the good stuff.

ACTIVITY: Fill your own bucket.

Members were asked to write a letter to yourself encouraging yourself in your Board/Delegate role. Write your name and address on the envelope, put letter inside, seal it and return to Melda. Melda will mail letters back to each person in about two weeks. She will not read them.

Motion:

"Another abundance workshop be held at Conference 2019 and the Conference review holding abundance workshops in the future."

CARRIED

Workshop 4: Maturity in Service

Arnold H and Liz A-S

Summary

What does that mean to you?

How did I feel and react when I came into Al-Anon Family Groups?

In groups of 3, members took a walk around the room to answer the following questions:

A great workshop to have at an Area Assembly. Wonderful analysis and participation from members produced a bounty of answers. Here are just a few:

Maturity
In life - in AFG
service

What did I think maturity was before I came into Al-Anon?

- Could not make mistakes.
- Fix everybody else.
- Everything serious and hard.
- I was mature because I took all responsibility, paying the bills.
- Poured out alcohol, trying to get alcoholic sober.
- Keeping Secrets.
- Being older in age.
- Knowing everything – had to have all the answers.
- Got life sorted – have worked it all out.

What did I see and hear modelled that made me want to change in the AFG?

- Joyful, peaceful people.
- People handling conflict well.
- Unconditional love, no judgement.
- People doing the work (using legacies).
- Equality, unity, belonging
- I saw respect, honesty, being listened to.
- People willingly serving others.
- Identification "I heard my story" - I am not a weirdo.
- Commitment to something for the first time.
- I saw others live through adversity, saw courage
- Laughter (at ourselves), people having fun.
- I saw the move from victim, to survivor, to thriving.

What tools did I find in AFG rooms to facilitate change in me?

- Slogans and Serenity prayer.
- People there like me, found validation.
- Three C's –did not cause, cannot control, cannot cure.
- Accepted as I was - trust, safety and anonymity.
- The Twelve Steps - First three steps - Fourth step to discover our talents.
- Learning to be honest - "No" is a complete sentence.
- 3 A's: Awareness, acceptance, action.
- Detachment (with love).
- Service, Sponsors and sponsees to help growth.
- Higher Power. F.R.O.G – Fully Rely On God.
- Role modelling – seeing people change.
- Fun and laughter.
- CAL and our history is experience, strength and hope.

How does living the legacies change my outlook?

- Gives me practical things to work with.
- Makes me more accepting and understanding of my circumstances.
- Tools to help flip the coin – change negative into positive.
- Became more emotionally mature.
- Take them into my workplace – a transferable skill.
- See “the glass” as half full.
- Makes me responsible to myself - Gives me a healthy way of life
- Foundation for my life – I (try) to look to them before I respond.
- Let go of old unhelpful/unhealthy attitudes.
- Trust in my Higher Power.
- Keeps me humble and teachable - Keeps me focused.

Having attained maturity how do I model this in my group, area and at conference?

- By speaking up and participating. Honesty, no secrets.
- Listening, without taking offence - keeping an open mind.
- Accepting constructive criticism.
- Role modelling - have fun - do service – less ego.
- Acting better than I feel.
- Not doing for others what they can do for themselves.
- Showing we are equals – using CAL when uncertain (not Mr / Ms Al-Anon).
- Not being over responsible - Allow others their own journey.
- Doing the work “Steps, Traditions, Concepts”.
- Respecting others as they are where they are.

We were then shown thought provoking and humorous examples of the points in

“A Checklist for Evaluating Our Maturity” from “Alcoholism the Family Disease” pamphlet - CAL P-4

Traditional Approval

Traditional approval is the procedure that takes place as the Board presents to the Conference for a vote of approval of the nominees for successors to the Board.

The following members were voted and approved by the conference.

Board Appointments 2018 - 2019

<u>Roles</u>	<u>Details</u>
Board Chair	Sally-ann M
Alternate Board Chair	Chris H
General Secretary	John B
Board Treasurer	Rana S
Literature Chair	Chris H
Budget/Executive Chair	Sam M
Public Outreach Chair	Tracy B
Conference Chair	Julie W
Editorial Chair	Melda T
International Al-Anon GSM Delegates	Sally-ann M and Chris H
Northern Regional Board member	Chris H
Central Regional Board member	Amadee R
Southern Regional Board member	Melda T
Convention Chair 2019	Chris H
Website Oversight	Rana S
National Alateen Coordinator	Vacant

Motion:

"That the conference gives Traditional approval of the Board appointments 2018/2019."

CARRIED

Motions and Trials

2018 Motions

Motion One: "That Amadee R is voted into the position of Central Regional Board Member (CRBM)."

Motion Two: "That the NZAGSO 2017/2018 annual financial accounts be accepted."

Motion Three: "That the NZAGSO annual 2018/2019 budget be accepted."

Motion Four: "That the Toll Free Number for NZAGSO be continued for a further one year trial."

Motion Five: "The new public outreach calendar be accepted by Conference."

Motion Six: "Another abundance workshop be held at Conference 2019 and the Conference review holding abundance workshops in the future."

Motion Seven: "That the conference gives Traditional approval of the Board appointments 2018/2019."

Trials

Conference	Trial	Review Date
2014	That the role of General Secretary for AFGNZ be for a trial period of six years.	2020
2018	That the Toll Free Number for NZAGSO be continued for a further one year trial.	2019

Outgoing Sharings

Rowena B, Area Four Delegate

Thank you for the opportunity of being an Area Delegate which was a privilege. Just can't believe how quickly this three year term has gone. I came to my first Conference very nervous about being in the company of so many people far more clever and confident than me!

My recovery in Al-Anon has always been extremely important to me right from the first evening I entered the Napier Al-Anon rooms. I applied this same enthusiasm to my journey as a Delegate and by the time of my second conference my personal confidence had grown greatly and I realised all the others at Conference were members doing their best and were very human just like me. I had long ditched my dumb phone and owned a smart phone plus a tablet. Technology being a tool I soon learned that if I wanted to be an effective Delegate I would have to quickly lift my game!

I have totally enjoyed this role over the past three years. I have grown both personally and within Al-Anon. Unfortunately I can't be present at my final Conference but thanks to Margaret J, Area Four Alternative Delegate stepping in for me, all is ok.

I have loved watching the growth in members and the willingness of both new and older members within our area stepping up for service.

Briefly some of my highlights have been:

- AA Assemblies with Al-Anon participation in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay
- Starting up of the Gisborne Al-Anon meeting
- Seeing Hastings Group really grow and consolidate
- The dedication of long time Napier members
- The purchasing of a banner
- Nine Area Four Al-Anon attendees at recent Serenity Weekend in Otaki

I would like to thank all the wonderful kind loving hard working people I have had the privilege to meet. Thank you Margaret for all your guidance. I have certainly learnt that you never do service alone in Al-Anon and by stepping out of my comfort zone I can keep learning.

Next for me is Assembly Chair for Area Four. Another opportunity to learn.

Thank you Al-Anon

Sarah R, Area Two Delegate

I have had a tremendous three years as Area Two Delegate. It has been inspiring for me to be around such passionate, dedicated, hardworking Al-Anon members at the conference and the enthusiasm and energy is contagious. I always return back home from conference with fresh new ideas and excited to share with my Area all that I have learnt and experienced at conference.

Being a delegate has also contributed to growth and self-confidence in areas of my personal life as well, such as a career which I will be forever eternally grateful.

About eight years ago I did a list of my goal/dreams to aspire towards and on that list was to be Area Delegate and to attend the National Conference in Auckland for this role which then proceeded to become a reality for me about five years later.

It has been an incredible journey for me and part of my term has included hosting the 54th AA Convention in Christchurch with Al-Anon participation and it was a privilege for me to be part of the organising committee for this and liaising with Melda, our Southern Regional Board Member.

I have made some friendships that I will have for the rest of my life through attending Conference for the past three years. I feel truly blessed and grateful and so thankful and honoured for the opportunity I have been given in my role as Area Delegate to assist with passing on all the valuable messages received at Conference and all the

new developments and advancements with regards to how we can grow our amazing fellowship and increase membership throughout New Zealand.

I have had a complete blast and enjoyed lots of laughs and being spontaneous as at my first conference I was part of a group of us who convinced Chris H to drive us to Auckland Sky City Tower on the Friday night which was loads of fun.

So summing it all up I have loved every moment of my role as Area Delegate including the challenges I have faced along the way and all the learning and growth and transformation that has been part of the journey and I hope that it can continue in some way for the future.

Sarah R

Arnold H, General Secretary (Trial)

Many one days at a time, ago, I came to Al-Anon Family Groups in another attempt to find favour inside of my relationship, I stayed in the fellowship!, the relationship ended sometime after my entry into the fellowship, when I was strong enough to make that decision.

I've come to understand I suffered from a distorted perception of how the world around me runs, before some recovery it was about you doing what I required to make me happy and within the rules I had in my head that I probably hadn't shared with you anyway.

I was blessed because the people in my group didn't judge me, allowed me to come back, nodded knowingly or smiled as I shared my frustrations at my inability to control the world around me. It took me a while to look in the mirror and realise the person looking back was the only one likely to change, grudgingly I have to say.

Then they talked about doing some work, The Steps they said will set you free, get yourself a sponsor, follow the suggested guidelines. Geez they're only guidelines, does that mean you have to follow them? In the beginning, no I didn't use them.

I've heard it said "how long do you want to carry that broken glass in your hand", I took this to mean pain was optional and by following the suggestions of those around me it could be lessened.

So eventually that's what I did, I got myself a sponsor did the work required and miracle upon miracle my life seemed to get better. Now I know I carry my disease just below the surface, so I need to continue to attend meetings to keep myself in check, on the way others may hear something that I share which helps them. Again that saying "you've got to give it away to keep it" has been proven to me over and over.

I have to say my recovery got better, quicker, when I started doing service. When I started it was a way to get out of the house but I reaped the rewards of meeting members from both fellowships at various service related events and assemblies. Their individual sharing's sustained me and I knew there was hope for me to improve my sense of self.

I have been lucky enough to serve at most levels in our fellowship, the work between events or meetings keeps my mind from straying into the "what ifs". I have met people from all over the world and truly understand the concept I belong to the World wide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups.

From humble beginnings when I was asked to turn the heaters on at my home group meeting rooms, to representing you, the New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups on the world stage at the International Al-Anon General Services Meetings.

So Conference 2018 sees me saying goodbye for a third time, previously as District Rep (Delegate) for Area One, then as a Board member in 2013 and now as General Secretary (trial).

Your trusted servants on the Board have matters well in hand and will continue to do their best for Al-Anon NZ, thanks to those I have worked with, who continue to inspire and role model to me actions and behaviours I once struggled to show. My journey in the fellowship will continue.

Arnold H

Sally-ann M, Central Regional Board Member, Web Oversight, Public Outreach Coordinator

The pathway to peace.

Lois said "Focus on what you can do and do it with all your heart." I came in to Al-Anon Family Groups not thinking I could 'do' much of anything. I was desperately hopeless, I felt insane and talentless, and I believed I was worthless. I avoided responsibility like the plague. Because I was afraid that I'd stuff it up. Actually I KNEW I'd stuff it up!

Once I'd worked my steps and became a little less insane, my sponsor explained that I was ready for service. She encouraged me to begin by participating in service at my home group and by reading the 'Joy of Service' pamphlet. This pamphlet promised me growth, recovery and joy through service. "Joy in working hard for free?! – I don't think so!" This was my attitude at the time.

However, I had figured out along the way that this woman knew some stuff that I didn't ... so I followed her suggestion. Slowly this bad attitude of mine began to change. After a while I was shoulder tapped and encouraged to stand for election for group roles. This eventually led to GR, which was my first three year term. Then Area level service came along ...eventually I was trusted enough to come to Conference to represent the fellowship in my Area and my life has never been the same since.

Conference was an "ahhh haaa" moment of epic proportions. Suddenly I had a new perspective, a deeper understanding of serenity, courage, acceptance, harmony, responsibility, leadership and how God is in the middle of all of it.

After time spent at Area level service, I was shoulder tapped to stand for CRBM:

Central Regional Board Member

The role of Central Regional Board member gave me a sense of perspective and unity across the Central region of the North Island, Areas Three, Four and Five. I was invited to attend Area Assemblies in Napier and Whanganui, I was welcomed, billeted, supported, listened to and shown respect and trust in my service role. I gave voice to the Central Areas at Board level and I supported and nurtured the Delegates of those Areas to grow and develop through service.

I was trusted by the fellowship to lead a committee in hosting the 52nd AA Convention in Wellington and boy did I grow in this role. I learnt to "breathe and do the next right thing." I learnt so much in this role about applying the traditions in conflict, about compassion, understanding, and tolerance. And I can see now that with each service opportunity as CRBM, I learnt to "do the work and trust the process" a little bit more each time.

I stayed close to my sponsor and my service sponsor who in turn kept me close to our guidelines and calmed me when I needed reassurance, with their wise and experienced words.

Once I joined the Board I saw that there were a few roles that needed some action as they were vacant at the time. The Board and I discussed me taking on some of these other roles:

Web Oversight

In this smaller role I reported to the Board the simple facts and statistics of how our website was performing. I made a recommendation to the Board that our website be seen as a vital outreach tool and valued as such with money, people, investment and a deeper recognition of its importance as a resource to the fellowship in NZ. This is beginning to happen. We have made some strategic and practical changes to text, to images, to what tools are available online. It's very rewarding to see the growth of our website and how much the fellowship is beginning to understand the impact and the importance of this vital tool.

National Public Outreach Coordinator

This role, I believe, was a gift from God for me. In my professional life I had a particular set of skills, contacts and understandings of the media landscape that meant that I was uniquely qualified to serve our fellowship in this way.

Where to start? I started with the fundamentals. We needed to all be singing from the same song sheet as a fellowship across New Zealand before we could begin outreach. I began the task of reminding our fellowship of our full name – Al-Anon Family Groups – and asking that this be used externally in everything we do.

I also began here at Conference asking the delegates to read the P90 The Best of Public Outreach before Conference so that they fully understand the definition of anonymity and how Traditions 11 and 12 actually allow and support public outreach rather than hindering it. Once that conversation happened it paved the way for the possibility for change and growth.

This fellowship is, by my calculations, over 80 years old. The wisdom and experience in our guidelines, our CAL, our long-timers and worldwide Al-Anon Family Groups needs to be harnessed and learnt from.

New Zealand as a fellowship is very small and very lacking in funding for PO. So I decided to not reinvent the wheel. I started in the role by asking our World Service Office permission to use the road sign outreach image they made for the US, adapting it for NZ use. They generously agreed and subsequently approved the use of the NZ versions. I then did the same thing with the American public service announcements. Making sure that all of these tools could be easily and inexpensively accessed by the whole membership in NZ.

Once we had our message unified internally then the opportunities to carry this message externally began to open up.

I utilised the NZ PO Committee at the time to help select a design for a simple yet professional looking pop-up banner and seeing members across NZ attracted to this effective form of PO has been exciting for me.

I had the chance in my role to travel across NZ to attend other AFG meetings in Auckland, Dunedin, and other cities in between. Being able to find the rooms of our meetings easily in a strange town because of the eye-catching road signs meeting tools in place has brought me so much joy and there it is.... the JOY in service. My sponsor was right.

Highlights for me include: Participating in Cutting Edge (the National Addictions Conference). The committee and I created an attractive and welcoming stand that drew conference members in to hear about AFG.

Qualifying for and participating in a not-for-profit grant through Google AdWords to help make our website easier for the public to find.

Most recently co-ordinating the creation of a new social awareness image to compliment the brand recognition of the road sign image was so much fun for me. More Joy!

Working on the new social awareness image for PO, the kids in the bottle, brought more joy. It involved asking South Africa permission to use their idea, working with other members in service on planning a photo shoot, working to secure a photographer, models and graphic designer, working on contracts and delegating tasks to other enthusiastic and capable members. It was rewarding working together with others to realise this goal from Conference 2015 to create a NZ version of this image that is attractive and powerful, an image that carries an effective message in itself. Being of service and using the talents and skills that God gave me was pure joy. Celebrating the 'bottle image' billboard going up in Wellington with the 2018 Convention Committee was a shot of joy direct to my heart.

There have been challenges and conflicts along the way, sure. But because of my sponsors and my service sponsors, each and every problem has given me a rich and rewarding opportunity to get out the scissors and to cut the ties of conflict, confusion and anger. To grow through the actions of looking for a spiritual solution that leads me back to peace of mind.

Right from the beginning, when I did not have peace of mind, God saw something in me, then my Sponsor saw something in me, then other Board members and all those shoulder tapper-ers along the way saw something in me that I didn't know was there. I had no idea I could do any of this.

I'm humbled and grateful that you could see it – thank you for seeing me, for encouraging and nurturing me along the way, along the pathway to peace.

Sally-ann M

Notes from Delegates Meeting – Summary

COMMON CHALLENGES

- How to attract members from lower socioeconomic areas
- Getting members to participate in AA Assemblies with Al-Anon participation
- Getting members to attend Area Assemblies
- Getting full attendance to GR meetings and GRs to read the GR Guidelines
- Finding solutions using the Service Manuals and KN-17 eg. Banking
- Struggling with group numbers
- Public Outreach not structured
- Members bringing outside affiliations into sharings at meetings and Cross talk in meetings – suggestions are to hold a Group Inventory, re-emphasise in the opening/welcome to leave outside affiliations at the door, refer to literature.
- Hard to fill service roles in smaller groups
- Groups closed due to low members
- Communication back to Group from Assemblies

COMMON STRENGTHS and ACTIVITIES

- Cooperation between Areas by sharing resources and Public Outreach
- Yearly planning of Area Assemblies and GR meetings well in advance
- GRs knowing the importance to convey message back to group members from Assemblies
- Groups hosting Area Assemblies brings more members to Assemblies and shares the workload
- Public outreach speaking to counsellors
- Pop-up groups – start meeting in new area and give up to 6 months to grow group and either continue with group or fold and start somewhere else. Two pop up meetings, one coming up 12 months and has a GR etc and the second has become a Step meeting and trying to build meeting and has a GR
- Initiative with CADS, now have a roster of speakers for the organisation (including dual members) and getting together members to form a sub-committee
- Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) being used to setup online meeting
- Community Facebook page – groups approach the coordinator to post Al-Anon notices on the page anonymously
- People starting to step up and take responsibility
- Striving for a healthy Area
- AA have included Al-Anon participation at organising committee meetings for AA Assemblies
- Focusing on talking about Sponsorship. Had a great sponsorship workshop at Area Assembly with good attendance and enthusiasm
- Having Public speakers at Community events including: health providers, church pastors, early learning teacher, counsellors etc
- AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation at Wanaka had a record number of members at business meeting where two out of three service positions were filled
- New signs for the Area helped with public outreach and inspired members to reach out to community
- Fundraising: One member had a stall at local Farmers Market with goods from members and donated the proceeds to Al-Anon – discussion how we cannot accept non-member donations so it must be done by one member without mention of Al-Anon. A movie night at meeting venue making it an Al-Anon only event with gold coin entry donation

Area Delegates' Reports:

Area One

Area One covers from Oamaru south taking in Dunedin, Balclutha, Queenstown, Alexander, Gore, Maitaia, Invercargill. In total 11 AFG Meetings, one meeting not assigned a GR yet. My term as Area One Delegate commenced on the 1st January 2018.

- Assemblies: Hokitika, Timaru (2017), Wanaka.
- Convention: January 2018 in Wellington. Great meeting other Delegates and Board Members, feeling like I can put a name to a face at Conference, not so daunting.
- Group Visits: Maitaia, Invercargill (Sat and Wed), Dunedin (Sun night).
- Outreach: No Public Outreach as far as I know.
Emails, mail, cell contact with 10 GRs exchanging contact numbers and addresses. Reminders about Assemblies, Area meetings, social events and information from NZAGSO to take back to meetings.
- Highlights: Wanaka Assembly, Convention in Wellington and visiting other meetings in my area.
At the Wanaka Assembly I was asked to step in as an Alternative Chair for the Area One Business Meeting. I checked with the Service Manual first to see if it was my responsibility! It was. Nervously, I stepped into the roll. Everything went very well with the help of my Higher Power and support of other Area Service Members, AND the awesome Board Member!
- We had three service vacancies and proudly two of these were filled, after referring to the protocol in the Service Manual. Thanks to this programme I was able to feel pleased with myself about the job I did.
- Concerns: None at this stage!

Love-in-Al-Anon-Service
Lucy A

Area One – Summary

Two people are considering to step into PO roles. Next area meeting, hoping someone will fill this position.

Fundraising - Between two groups - decided to set up a stall at an old peoples home, purchased a table, bring and buy, monies received then donated to Al-Anon. No mention of Al-Anon at stall.

Of the three vacancies in area, two are filled (Secretary, Alternate Delegate filled with PO yet to be filled).

Area Two

Area Two stretches from Kaikoura to Waimate (789km apart). Christchurch has nine Al-Anon family groups; there is one meeting in Timaru.

Highlights

Dave did a great job of running the Serenity Weekend/Day for us at the end of last year. We got some feedback from a member regarding the content used for the workshop. A lot of people who attended Dave's weekend expressed interest of him doing something similar again more frequently throughout the year so perhaps we need to discuss as an Area what the Serenity Weekend is going to look like for Area Two going forward and any suggestions on how, when it should be run etc. each year in the Al-Anon calendar.

AA Assemblies with Al-Anon Participation

We had the Timaru Area Assembly in October and there was a fantastic turnout of members for AA but unfortunately numbers were low on attendance from Al-Anon being only a total of six and only myself and one other from Christchurch.

Wanaka AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation in February was great with good speakers and strong sharing from members. And I found it beneficial to attend the Area One Business meeting and observe how they run the meeting.

Area Assemblies

August 26th – I did a Delegate's report from conference which was presented in a workshop style which included role plays to practice for when doing Public Outreach and showing examples of how we don't need to break our anonymity.

November 26th – We had our assembly on the Sunday morning of our Serenity weekend. It went well and we had some Service Role members absent and it was good to see that other members were willing to step in and help out at short notice.

March 17th – We started the day off with a sponsorship workshop in the morning which was very well attended and interactive and enjoyed by all who attended. A lot of experience, strength and hope was shared and this will hopefully inspire members to look for a suitable sponsor with whom they can work the steps with.

We managed to fill one out of our three service positions which was the Secretary Role. We still need a Chair but someone has kindly offered to step in for the next Assembly meeting. The Public Outreach Co-ordinator Role is still vacant.

Public Outreach

Kaipoi AFG is hosting a Movie Fundraiser Evening Saturday 23rd June at 6.30pm screening the movie based on the Lois and Bill Story "When Love Isn't Enough". All the proceeds from this event will be forwarded on to NZAGSO and we have been lucky enough to hire the venue for \$10 for the evening including use of the sound system and projector.

Concerns

The lack of members putting their hands up for Service Positions and we have been managing to get by with the same members who always step forward but now they are resigning at the end of their terms, we need some other members step up.

A member did comment that perhaps a solution is getting more members to find a suitable sponsor and start working the steps so that they then have some of the basic tools to then step up and try a service role. We are hoping that our Sponsorship Workshop may help encourage people to do this.

Conclusion

It would be fantastic to see more members attending the AA assemblies with Al-Anon participation as it is a great way to get a weekend full of wonderful fellowship and hear inspiring sharings and have the opportunity available to attend the AA/Al-Anon combined meetings to hear a variety of different sharings. Currently we generally only get a small number attending from Al-Anon.

It was great to see Dave host the Annual Al-Anon Serenity Weekend with minimal assistance from other members doing an amazing job although this did become a learning curve for us all. We learnt that we do need to form a committee to run an event like the Serenity Weekend. Also that it is acceptable to use non-approved Al-Anon material for workshops etc as long as the details of where this has been sourced from cannot be seen. So going forward as an Area we have elected to use only approved Al-Anon Literature at Al-Anon Events.

We are beginning to make some progress with Public Outreach and it is really positive that we will be holding a movie fundraiser evening to raise funds for NZAGSO.

It's positive that we have decided as an area to alternate an Al-Anon Sharing Meeting with a Workshop at the Start of our Area Assemblies which was an idea that I was given at Conference last year so I'm happy that we have been able to implement this. Sarah R

Area Two – Summary

Will check through GM8 to be sure Assembly is going through NZ Al-Anon structure service roles.

We are doing Sponsorship workshop, pre-empting for service roles by having a sound basis with sponsorship.

It is financially difficult for members, barrier with regards to spending money on travel and accommodation.

Suggestion that members offer to billet an Area Delegate or GR to help get them to Assemblies etc.

Area Three

Area Three is the Central region covering Wellington, Kāpiti and Wairarapa. We have 12 Groups holding 14 Meetings a week. This year we have added three new meetings and lost one.

Highlights:

This year we have held our annual Open Birthday meeting, the Serenity Weekend and we are currently in the throes of organising both of these events again, and another TEAM event later in the year. Shortly after conference last year we were invited by AA to attend their Central Assembly in Palmerston North where we joined with Area Five to host fellowship and held our Area assembly there.

Public Outreach:

Along with Al-Anon National Public Outreach, Area Three attended The Cutting Edge Conference, the NZ Addiction Practitioners Association annual conference. AFG "business" cards and pamphlets were handed out to professionals to increase name recognition. In 2018 this event will be held in Rotorua.

Area Assemblies:

This year as the Delegate I have put an emphasis on attendance by our GRs to their GR Meeting, the workshop event, Convention and mostly Assembly. Our area planner helps us keep track of these important dates. At our November assembly we had full GR attendance – and GR registration for the Convention, we also had 100% attendance at some GR Meetings. It was a HUGE highlight.

Group Concerns: This year has seen a group disband, the GR of the group advised they had been asked to stop sharing the Area business at meetings as the group preferred to just share. This with a few other issues lead to the GR deciding that they could no longer represent that group and decided to resign. They felt that they had made the right decision with their sponsor and service sponsor. A new group is struggling to set up their service structure and has asked for the Delegate's help. Many groups report that they have seen an increase in newcomers as a direct result of the Convention and the publicity around this event. Not having a CRBM is a concern to us, as are members not fulfilling their service roles.

Matters Arising from Conference feedback:

We have had a real challenge to meet Area 3's commitment to the National Phone line initiative. Area committee had to review our current phone line, discuss the outcome and vote at assembly to follow that through. We then had to find a coordinator and volunteers and adopt a new set of guidelines around taking calls (the PIN 10). We have only just (at the time of writing) been able to send an action to NZAGSO to switch calls over to our volunteers. It is very much a work in progress, though we are optimistic.

AA Convention with Al-Anon participation:

This year we attended the 55th convention by invitation from AA, and it was utterly fantastic. It was held at Te Papa and our room on the Saturday had the most peaceful and beautiful view over our harbour, it was breath taking. I was invited to be on the committee which was an amazing experience. We had 55 pre-registrations for Al-Anon which was a big focus this time, so we were able to advise AA and get an appropriate sized room. We had two speakers share their ESH at the public open meeting which was attended by 500+. Our Public Outreach saw us secure a billboard outside Wellington railway station, which was truly amazing.

This past year has been very busy in Area 3. With tools like our yearly planner, we are able to plan events with ample time and organise service committees to undertake them. There are many new Area committee members and GRs which is very positive and great for service succession. We have had some failures and great learning and I think we are a willing bunch.

LIAS, Liz A-S

Area Three – Summary

A PO Co-ordinator has set up a sub-committee for Public Outreach.

One group disbanded after personalities became a conflict concerning communication from NZAGSO and Assemblies.

A new group, having some issues filling service roles and bank account issues was rewarded with solutions and growth for the group after the GR sought help.

The AA Convention was fantastic with 500 or more, speakers chosen carefully, direct feedback, 11 meetings had newcomers. Advised groups to stock up on newcomers pack. Billboards around the town, advertising a public meeting. More people seen at meetings.

The Area has a Dropbox yearly planner for Area events which is very functional.

There were some issues with getting phone number/system set up, the co-ordinator away, level of training missing, adopted PIN-10 guidelines to get it going.

For the AA Convention, advertising the event 'come to open meeting' picture with bottle on it. Focused on using structure, no regional board member. Area committee would attend CAA in Palmerston North - other two held separately.

Area Four

Area Four covers the area from Gisborne in the north to Woodville in the south. Cities are Gisborne, Napier and Hastings, smaller towns are Wairoa, Waipukurau, Waipawa and Dannevirke.

The Napier group meets on a Thursday night at 7.30pm. The Hastings Al-Anon Family Group meeting is held on a Wednesday night at 6.45pm. The new Gisborne group Just for Today meeting is held on a Tuesday evening at 5.00pm.

The Dannevirke group may have gone into recess or have been abandoned. I have spoken with Louise the original contact who now lives in Masterton and I am waiting to hear back from her re a contact number in Dannevirke. From reports this relatively new group struggled right from the beginning. Despite all efforts, newcomers did not come.

One Registered Loner in the area.

A big highlight for Area was saving up for and buying banner for Public Outreach. Group Reps spoke about this at meetings and great participation from members allowed this to happen. The groups are taking turns to display in a public area for several months. It was decided the banner is not to be left under a bed. The new Public Outreach Co-Ordinator is taking responsibility for this. Napier Health was the first outing with it going to Gisborne after last Assembly with AA in Hastings.

A fun workshop at November Assembly where two members did a skit on life before Al-Anon and life today.

The theme of the meeting was New Beginnings.

For Public Outreach we have the banner in the community. Advertisements in the free newspapers which are delivered to all households in Napier and Hastings. Leaflets placed out and about in the community.

The recent Central Area Assembly held in Hastings was well attended. Many AA people came to our sharing meetings. AA were wonderful to work with inviting us to all planning meetings and debriefing meeting afterwards. They set up our room and had printed Al-Anon signs made.

In the evening a Public Meeting was very well attended; both fellowships had invited guest speakers. Great Public Outreach.

Again Group Reps created excitement at meetings talking about this upcoming event.

At the moment Group Reps are regularly talking about May Serenity Weekend in Otaki.

The year has got better and better. Enthusiasm from Group Reps has helped to create more interest.

I feel the July Assembly being cancelled may have been a wakeup call to members to value AI-Anon and that if we don't show up and participate we could very easily not have this wonderful programme.

Thank you.
Everyone Everywhere

Rowena B

Area Four – Summary

We are aware of online meeting for those not in great health and cannot get out but sometimes a home meeting is arranged.

It was lonely with only one group in Area Four but we now we have three meetings and structure is working okay

Area Five

My name is Patty, the Delegate for Area Five. This is my first year in this position.

Area Five covers from North - New Plymouth graduating South - Whanganui, to Palmerston North.

Currently we have one group operating in Palmerston North, two groups in Whanganui, and one group in New Plymouth

Many changes have happened since last year. Several groups have disbanded, one in Palmerston North, one group has become two in Whanganui and three groups have become one in New Plymouth.

We held our first Area Assembly for the year in March, the account from the Friday Whanganui group was that they were experiencing increasing growth, the same with the Palmerston North Thursday group. The Whanganui Tuesday Night group remains steady. My own group the New Plymouth Monday night group is experiencing low attendance.

Being new to the position I am still coming to terms embracing my role and catching up fully with my area. At our March Assembly we were able to fill the Secretary and Treasurer's positions, the two roles myself and the Alternate Area Delegate held – me as Secretary and Pete as Treasurer. These roles have been taken up by two Palmerston North members and our New Plymouth member has taken up the role of Chair since November.

Our next Area Assembly will be held in Palmerston North 7 July in conjunction with the Area AA Assembly.

The past year has seen a time of change for all the groups in my area. Two groups settling into growth and feeling secure. The Tuesday Night group in Whanganui have missed several Assemblies so haven't been able to gauge their journey and my own group New Plymouth is still in its early phase of adjusting to a new time, a new night, and venue and a change in membership. A steady core attendance has not happened yet as was hoped for when making the changes.

At our Assembly in November we did bring into general business the references to the God terms as written in the Steps, Traditions. The Assembly's consensus was to respect and consider the generation when these terms were written and to continue to hold in respect and read out as written, as would be a constitutional statute of AI-Anon.

Public Outreach in the groups is still getting off the ground for the year. Our New Plymouth group remains invited to speak to the people in rehab on the Bridge programme once every six weeks.

I am looking forward to carrying out my role effectively as required and look forward to my first Conference to give me impetus and enthusiasm. Patty J

Area 5 – Summary

The particular group (now disbanded) had a member present a report in the group about replacing He with She in the Steps. The new Delegate took this to the Assembly. Consensus was unanimous, to respect principles as they were written at the time.

*The Delegate was referred to **Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter, page 226-227 of the WSO Service Manual 2018-2021** regarding changing the wording of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.*

Area Six

Area Geographical Location/Boundaries

Area Stretches from Whitianga, Waihi, Thames, Tauranga, Rotorua, Hamilton, and Taumarunui.

List Al-Anon, Alateen, Al-Anon Adult Children Groups and Loners

Hamilton Courage to Change AFG, Hamilton Lunchtime Serenity AFG, Tamahere Hamilton Sunday AFG, Tauranga Monday Night AFG, Rotorua Geyserland AFG, Waihi AFG, Thames AFG, Taumarunui AFG, Whitianga AFG

Any new Groups or disbanded groups

Tokoroa AFG – Closed

Alateen Report

No Alateen Groups in Area Six. We have one Alateen Sponsor in our Area at present.

Highlights during the year

One of my highlights during this year was our Serenity Weekend October 2017, held at Papamoa, Pacific Christian Holiday Camp and even though it was touch and go about numbers, we all had a fantastic weekend, which I hope will be repeated, and interest was to form a committee to plan another one 2019. Another highlight for me was attending the AA Convention in Wellington, which always inspires me to go to another the following year.

Public Outreach

We as a group in Tauranga have purchased the NZ Al-Anon From Gold to Diamond 10 years from 2005-2014, and will encourage others in the Area to do the same, as profits will be sent as a donation to NZAGSO. The Tauranga group has purchased more pamphlets to distribute to relevant outlets, to help spread the message of Al-Anon to those who need it. The Hamilton Courage to Change group has been leaving Newcomers booklets and bookmarks in medical centres. Outreach is such a vital part but I know for me sometimes I get so busy in my life that I find it hard to take the time but every opportunity I share my life experience in some way. I have to remind myself if someone hadn't reached out to me when I was in need, I may have taken longer to find Al-Anon.

Area Assemblies, workshops and numbers attending

Numbers are down at Area Meetings, but we have had enough to run the business meeting, and the majority of groups either have a GR to attend Area Assemblies, or a representative, or send in a group report. I'm sure at each group the Area Assembly is publicised and members encouraged to attend.

Concerns

There are still smaller groups which can be a concern, as when there are less numbers, there are less numbers to share the service roles and limited finances coming in. In those situations it could be easy to carry the load, but the service roles still need to be shared in the group. Try not to get burdened with the responsibility and keep encouraging members to serve in some way.

Cross talk may come up from time to time at the meeting which can affect the newcomer. Remember to mention this at the beginning of the meeting to help the newcomers. Encourage members that there will be time after the meeting to talk one to one.

AA Convention with Al-Anon participation

I attended the AA Convention with Al-Anon participation on the 19-21st January at Te Papa, Wellington. The Theme for the convention was "Our Lives will be transformed". Al-Anon Family Groups' participation in the 55th National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous NZ was a fantastic venue, and on the Saturday we had our meetings

in a room with fantastic sea views. The topics were Courage, Forgiveness, Hope, Truth, Freedom, and The Promises. On the Sunday the topics were 'Evolution Towards Wholeness' and 'Serenity and Peace'. Our lives certainly have been touched in some way in our Journey in Al-Anon.

Conclusion

There have been struggles and challenges but Al-Anon keeps providing meetings for members and reaching out to the newcomers each week. Serving in Al-Anon can come in different capacities and reaching out to those in need so they can too hear the message. Thank you everyone for your commitment, service and regular attending of meetings, it is very much appreciated.

Helen P

Area Seven

Area Seven covers from the Bombay Hills south of Auckland to the south side of Dominion Road in Central Auckland. We have the same number of groups as last year, 13, one of which is an Alateen group (with intermittent attendance), the men's group has changed to a general meeting and we have a monthly intergroup. Three of the groups are very small and are functioning at varying levels.

Alateen

Our Alateen meeting continues with sporadic attendance and a small flow of newcomers – we have occasional spates of regular attendance but frequently with only one young person at a time. We currently have a 14 yr old who came along to meetings as a child. We have tried public outreach to local schools again but most new members come from children of Al-Anon or AA members. We continue to make Alateen meetings available at AA Assemblies when they are in our area and had one young person at the last AA Assembly. We still have six approved AMIAS and a lot of willingness to continue.

Highlights

All service positions continue to be filled and we have had a turnover of secretary and chairperson and Highlights (newsletter) editor.

Area Seven hosted an AA Assembly in Howick with 25 members from Al-Anon attending in March 18 and attracting a number of AA members to several meetings. They are also an outreach opportunity for Al-Anon and Alateen. This was better attended than the last one in August 17.

Two new meetings that started after the only East Auckland meeting closed July 16 celebrated their 1st birthdays in August.

Our steps study weekend at Aio Wira in March was fully subscribed with 20 registrations – (it is a whole weekend event and members stay on site).

TEAM event was well attended (65) and supported and mostly well received.

Group activities

Groups celebrate their anniversaries with special meetings and hold fundraising events for the bi-annual appeal. Potluck dinners are popular with trading tables or auctions, raffles of literature or homemade items.

Public Outreach

The police initiative with pamphlet holders is in place throughout Area 7, only small numbers of pamphlets are being taken currently. There have been teething issues with holders not being put up or attempts to get into a new station without the member who set them up not being successful. The liaison police officer is very influential on whether it works or not.

Some groups are very active in putting pamphlets in public places, speaking at treatment facilities, Libraries, doctors.

We have tried to focus more on providing speakers to facilities where we can have direct contact with Family members however we continue to get members from speaking to clients of Alcohol and Drug (A&D) facilities eg Wings Trust, The Bridge Manukau.

We attend A&D Court in Auckland semi regularly.

Advertisement in community newspaper quarterly or in STUFF

Manukau has Al-Anon speakers regularly. A number of central groups cooperate to put advertisements in local community paper quarterly and other groups use noticeboards. Recently this Ad was trialled in the STUFF for a much cheaper price. A number of groups provide literature to their local libraries, super clinics and other community facilities. It is difficult to tell the outcome of these efforts. Most people seem to be referred by someone in AA or a professional.

A small group are looking at how we can reach out to Maori and Pacific communities.

CADS – Family Groups

Together with Area Eight we are focussing on how we can reach out to the family members that are attending support groups at these services. The idea to focus on this one service for both areas arose out of the IAGSM delegates report on what India has done.

Area Assemblies:

GRs voted not to hold workshops at Assemblies to reduce the amount of time spent at the meeting. There was some frustration at focussing on the business at hand. We have a good attendance of long term members at Assemblies and turnout from the GRs.

Area Seven Concerns:

Attendance by members at wider events has fluctuated – last year we had very poor attendance at an AA Assembly 15-20 and I was concerned about attendance at the TEAM event, however we drummed up a good attendance with 65 coming. Intergroup has fluctuated from 10-34 over the year and was part of a drive to increase attendance with mixed results.

Three small groups that are struggling, our Wednesday Inner City Lunchtime which has been going for 45 years is close to folding. The other two are relatively new.

Venues are still expensive and difficult to locate in Auckland which our pop up groups have struggled with. Safety of members after hours arriving and leaving meetings has been an issue as well.

Goals.

1. To keep growing Al-Anon in the Area with the groups – e.g. Pop up meetings
2. To increase diversity
3. To support Public Outreach activities

I continue to work towards these goals and to try and create healthy groups that are attractive and that retain members.

Sheryl G

Area Seven – Summary

Addition to report:

- *A pop-up meeting trialled in Otahuhu, had folded despite extensive PO. Venue was not ideal, in an industrial area, building was like a rabbit warren, and parking was difficult.*
- *Most recent pop-up, in Remuera is well supported, with many AA groups in the area. Intergroup is considering using this venue in the future. Current venue noisy with other people wandering around.*
- *The Wednesday 7.45pm men's meeting has closed.*
- *Venues continue to be difficult, costs are high, and parking is difficult.*

The A&D Court is an alcohol and drug court run through the Auckland District Court. This is a specific courtroom focused on specific drug and alcohol issues. Al-Anon members will attend the court, sit in court and approach vulnerable family members outside.

Area Eight

Area Eight comprises of all of Auckland west of Dominion Road and all of the country north of the Harbour Bridge.

Al-Anon Family Groups: Thirteen Al-Anon groups, two Alateen groups.

Includes three new groups: Whangarei Strength and Hope, Helensville Lunchtime and an online meeting via Skype (nzalanononlinerecovery@gmail.com), which is registered with WSO.

Alateen Report:

- Eleven approved AMIAS
- Browns Bay Alateen: One member but with spasmodic attendance
- Red Beach Trust Alateen: Three or four members attend regularly. A successful end of year Pizza Party was held by this group.

Highlights During The Year:

- Recovery Workshop "Living Well Today" on 17 March 2018 in Pt Chevalier.
- A TEAM EVENT was hosted by Areas Seven and Eight on Saturday 7th October 2017 - 65 members attended. Arnold H, Sally-ann M shared on topics such as the World Service Conference, the Twelve Concepts of Service and the IAGSM. Rana S gave a presentation on the NZ Al-Anon website.
- The Delegate and Alternate Delegate managed to visit all groups in Area Eight at least once during the calendar year, including the Far North groups.
- Gmail addresses for each committee position with 15gb free storage, have been set up so information can be saved and easily passed on to new committee members.

Public Outreach:

- The planned information site at the "Big Gay Out" did not go ahead as the event was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.
- Members attend the Waitakere Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court (AODTC) on a fortnightly basis.
- A roster of three members at a time speak at Higher Ground on a monthly basis.
- Areas Seven and Eight members have been speaking at Community Drug and Alcohol Services sessions, which has been very well received.
- Areas Seven and Eight are investigating the possibility of running a six week block of "Newcomer" meetings. Three potential venues have been found.
- Members have been speaking at the Waipareira Trust with great feedback.
- Groups regularly provide literature to Victim Support, schools and libraries.
- Areas Seven and Eight are working alongside AA to introduce an Al-Anon presence in some of the larger police stations around the Auckland area.
- Areas Seven and Eight will run their 09 379 4871 phone number for another two years, alongside the new 0508 4 ALANON phone number, before the old number is phased out.

Assemblies:

- Four assemblies held each year, two include workshops, one includes the Delegate's report and one is an election assembly.
- A 30-minute Group Representative (GR) meeting is held before each Assembly.
- We are actively encouraging groups to send along an Alternate GR, if the GR is unavailable.
- A committee member is collating a manual of service role descriptions specific to Area Eight, eg Higher Ground co-ordinator, AODTC co-ordinator, Intergroup co-ordinator.

Area Concerns:

- Some groups do not have GRs. The importance of this role is being stressed with regard to the flow of information from the Board through to the groups.
- The Far North groups do not have GRs or any representatives at Assemblies. Billets can be found for anyone who can travel down to Auckland, to save on costs.
- The importance of banking Tradition Seven money as soon as possible, and safe storage of money at group Treasurers' homes, has been discussed following a burglary at someone's home. Fortunately, in this case, the donations were not stolen.

Area Eight is running smoothly and we have an enthusiastic committee who work cooperatively.

Jannene A

Area Eight – Summary

Addition to report:

- *Area now has 15 Al-Anon groups and 2 Alateen groups.*
- *From last year's conference the area targeted the community drugs and alcohol services. Al-Anon speakers demand is huge. CADs wanted a mobile meeting but this would not work with rotation of volunteers so we will be working on the set up of a newcomers meeting.*

The Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate visited all groups from Dominion Road to Kaitia. I let the group know we were coming. Kaitia group were especially happy to see us. We enjoy the visits which helped to build contacts.

The demand from CADs has been huge, Area 7 and 8 decided to get a newcomers meeting together using the KN17 guidelines GN-2.

Some groups with no GRs have a large number of double winners that cannot serve outside the group. We are trying to entice the groups to attend the four assembly meetings per year.

The institutions we have visited are; Zen Retreat, Higher Ground, CADs, Different PO co-ordinations and The Big Gay Out.

Area Nine

Area Nine covers the West Coast, Blenheim and Nelson/Tasman regions. Our groups are Greymouth, Nelson Wednesday, Nelson Monday night, Nelson Friday and Blenheim. Plus, two new Pop Up meetings Hokitika and Nelson Thursday Steps meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS The highlight for Area Nine this year was the Serenity weekend we had in October at Marahau next to the Tasman National Park. Sixteen hearty souls with umbrellas and at times raincoats, had a ball and are very keen for a repeat performance next October. Meetings were held on expectations, service and serenity. The workshop on self-care was found to be very valuable. Saturday evening was an evening of fun, laughter and fellowship.

PUBLIC OUTREACH Nelson Al-Anon members were invited as guest speakers to attend the Motueka Community and Whanau meeting in February. Four of us attended and three had the opportunity to speak. This was a very successful PO, as there were 33 attending. We were told afterwards that usually only 15 attend, but they came because we were the guest speakers. Some of the associations represented were from the local Marae, Early Learning Centre, Budget Advice, Grey Power, Mental Health, Teacher, Family Service Centre, NCC, Community Law, Family Start etc to name a few. Our website link is now on their newsletter and we have been invited to attend their ongoing meetings. I have since attended the Richmond Waimea Community Whanau meeting and found it a very useful venue to talk about Al-Anon Family Groups and get our word out there. Our website is also on their newsletter. We have since been invited to attend the Nelson Community and Whanau monthly meetings and to be a guest speaker at the June meeting. Three of us were privileged to speak at the Citizens Advice Nelson Area meeting to inform them about Al-Anon Family Groups and what we are about. There were many questions to answer. We were turned down when we approached the Practice Nurses meeting, as they weren't interested at this time.

AREA ASSEMBLIES Other highlights were our Area Assemblies. We have three a year and rotate between the West Coast, Blenheim and Nelson. This means travel twice a year for all of us and we stay overnight. This gives us another opportunity to have a fun and laughter and fellowship evening on Saturday night.

We were in Blenheim in July with a small gathering of about 12 members. Then a similar number attended the Greymouth meeting and we are back in Blenheim 17th and 18th March with 12 attending.

Claire and the West Coast members attended the South Island AA Assembly in June 2017 and it sounds like it was a very successful Al-Anon gathering with around eight Al-Anon members attending.

CONCERNS IN OUR AREA There has been a general concern about a lack of members, so we have stepped up our PO in the area. We have since had an increase in numbers but not sure if this is from PO or just our HP

recognising we are putting our meetings out there. We also have had a lack of communication between local Al-Anon Family Groups which can mean a double up on PO. Maybe not a bad thing.

Another concern is some GRs not traveling to Assemblies. This makes it hard to get information out to those meetings and less members doing service and being ready to step up to Area level in service. I'm not sure how we can solve this. When I am visiting these meetings, I will be encouraging them to attend for their own personal growth.

Overall this year, in Area Nine we have experienced growth in members and in opening two new Pop Up meetings. The Hokitika meeting has a core group of five attending and the Nelson Steps six attending. One of our meetings has dropped in numbers but the others have maintained or grown. This year I intend to be more proactive with travel and attending more of the meetings and doing lots more PO. I am excited about the PO opportunities that my HP has sent.

In conclusion Area Nine has had a great year and is looking forward to increasing our profile and our numbers. And spreading the word of Al-Anon Family Groups.

Marguerite B

Area Nine – Summary

Addition to report:

👉 *We have two new registered groups.*

I email groups with Assembly happenings when a GR has not attended.

Reminder that if a GR that misses two Assemblies in a row is automatically dismissed.

In the past we had 'tagging' in Area 9. This happened down the coast and unfortunately the meeting has closed. I will bring this up again. One meeting would turn up and take over the meeting, bring supper, a lot of fun and fellowship.

The Area Committee members and GRs may get reimbursed where needed to attend meetings. They may choose to donate this back to Al-Anon.

At one time a group on the fringe was accommodated by an Assembly coming to them

Board Reports:

Board Chair

Sally-ann M

The 12 months since Conference 2017 have been filled with service challenges and growth. Two years into the role of Board Chair and I am reminded that while we are administrators and trusted servants, we are also leaders.

In September the Board completed its annual inventory. This year we ticked a great many tasks off the list we made last year. I hope to be in a position to say the same next year.

Also in September we participated in our first National Cutting Edge conference held in Wellington. Cutting Edge is New Zealand's key addiction treatment conference. We had an exhibition stand over two days and raised awareness of AFG to 500 attendees. In 2018 it is at the Energy Events Centre in Rotorua 12-15 September.

As a not-for-profit, which relies solely on the donations of its members, we are holding our own financially but this leaves us little room for growth. Remember that your donations are gratitude in action and if you want to see growth in our service arms such as our website, outreach, literature, NZAGSO then we need to be able to fund these.

The Board participated in one TEAM event in the last 12 months. Held in Auckland and hosted by Area 7 and 8 this event was well run and attracted great numbers. We have recently updated the 'how to' information on our website, also Areas are submitting a written report on hosting a TEAM event which gives us recommendations and experience to build on with each event.

I'm very happy to report that after a four month hiatus our beloved Messenger has a new Editor and committee. They have invited all of us at Conference to write and submit our sharings about our journey in recovery in order to keep this great resource vibrant and inspiring.

A successful AA Convention was held in Wellington at Te Papa in January 2018 where the Board participated in the very first Board Panel held on Sunday morning. By all accounts those who attended enjoyed this session and it was a great way for the fellowship to see and hear the Board.

Succession planning is always a focus of the Board and in the last 12 months we have welcomed three new Board members one of whom is the new Budget Exec Committee Chair.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve the fellowship and grow in service.

Your trusted servant,
Sally-ann
Board Chair

Treasurer

Rana S – report to 31st March 2018

Financial Year and Audit



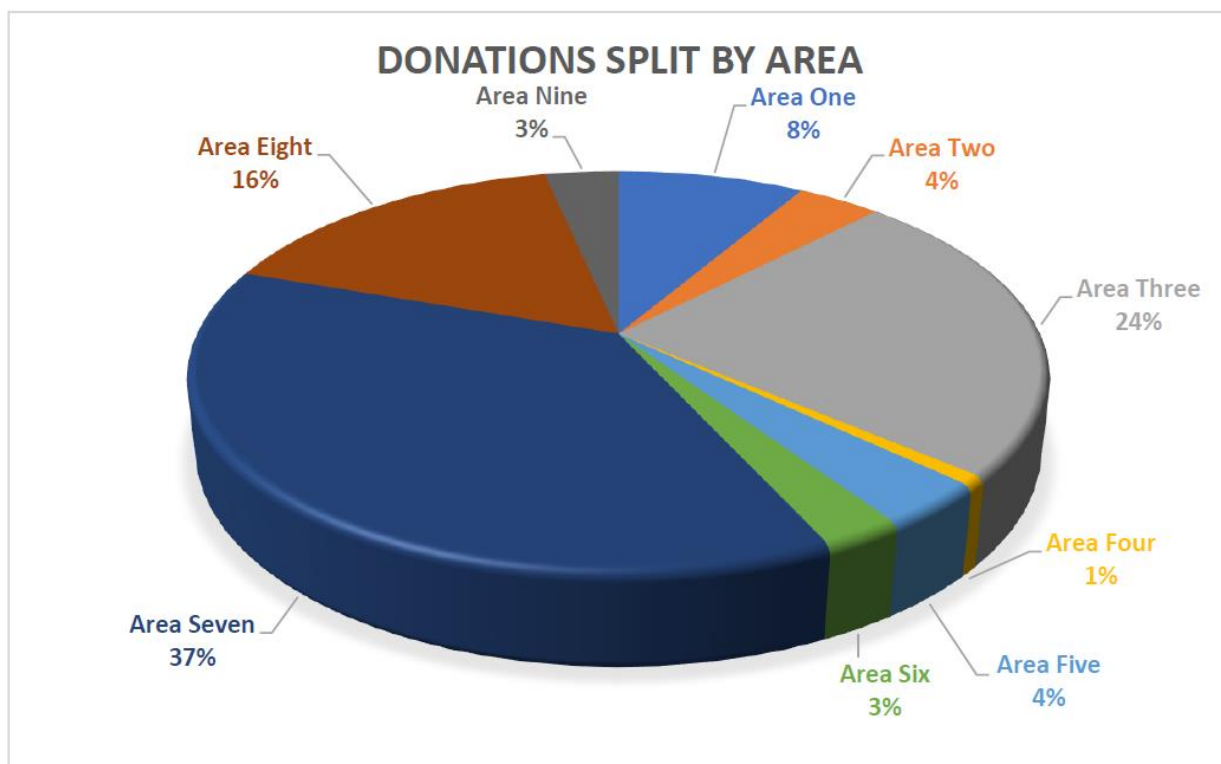
Our financial year runs from 1st April in each year until the following 31st March. Because this report has to be completed in March 2018 (to allow inclusion in the Conference Brochure), the accounts have not yet been completely finalised, but the final audited set will be provided at 2018 New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) and will be very close to these results.

Donations

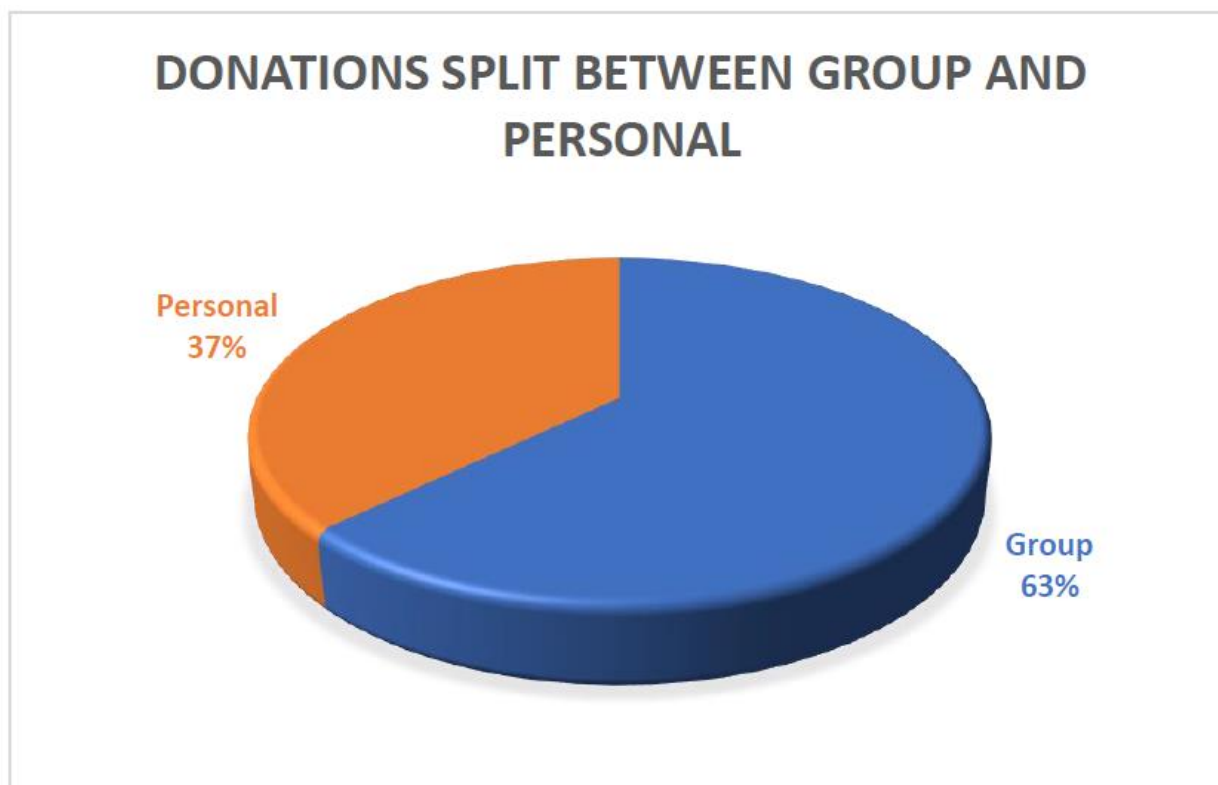


Tradition Seven requires us to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions. That leaves us financially dependent on contributions from our members. Members donate through their groups, through their fundraising efforts, through their personal donations directly to NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) and through profits on buying our literature.

The approved budget for donations for 2017/2018 was \$55,122 for the year we reached \$61,333 which is seemingly a very pleasing result. Within these donations there were two personal donations which were in total \$16,000. If we remove these from the total donations received, we would have received only \$45,333 from the remaining members and the groups. This means that 29% of the donations received were donated by two individual members. Needless to say, we are very grateful for the donations that we did receive. The split of donations by areas is as follows:



The split of donations between personal and group donations is as follows:



Consistent with prior years we have reviewed the distribution of the number of groups and based on the best information (2018 group registrations) we have the distribution of members within this. For the 2017/2018 year we budgeted to receive \$1.60 per week per member. This provides the following:

	No. of groups	Approx members	2017/2018 budget
Area 1	11	89	\$7,404.80
Area 2	11	91	\$7,571.20
Area 3	15	114	\$9,484.80
Area 4	4	14	\$1,164.80
Area 5	4	22	\$1,830.40
Area 6	11	63	\$5,241.60
Area 7	13	125	\$10,400.00
Area 8	15	118	\$9,817.60
Area 9	5	35	\$2,912.00
	89	671	\$55,827.20

From this is and looking at the result for 2017/2018 it is clear the majority of areas are well below budget. Thankfully there are a number of areas which continue to contribute well above budget (and long may that continue).

As a new Treasurer, it is becoming much clearer how hard it is to manage the accounts (as donations are highly erratic) and it seems the message is not getting to the groups that NZAGSO and the NZAGSB need help from the groups to maintain the services currently provided.

Other income



We get a small amount of income each year from interest on our ample reserve and Messenger sales. The effect of those items is negligible. There is also often a contribution arising from our participation in the annual Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous. As this has been erratic in the past we do not rely on it for budget purposes.

Literature Sales



We sell Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to provide a service to our members and for public outreach rather than to produce income.

Any profit on literature sales does not include the costs of:

- Our rent
- Time of our Office Manager
- Time donated by volunteers

If our calculations included a realistic "value" for those hidden costs then the outcome would certainly be that CAL sales is a net cost (or loss) to the fellowship. That cost/loss is worthwhile in terms of our spiritual purpose.

We buy CAL from the World Service Office (WSO) in US dollars and pay freight in US dollars. The exchange rate between US and NZ dollars is volatile and fluctuates wildly. In the 2017/2018 financial year the rate has varied from as low as \$0.6888 to \$0.752. Our current pricing assumes a rate in the \$0.65 to \$0.70 range, which is almost exactly the mid-range of the fluctuation in the year.

Overall the gross profit on literature is \$11,659 (bearing in mind this does not include the costs listed above). This has been declining over the last few years and we expect it to continue declining with the raise of e-books. However, the WSO will be releasing new literature in July and this is expected to stimulate literature sales here in New Zealand (for that new piece of literature).

Expenses



As has been reported for the last three years, the fellowship continues to financially benefit from the transformation of the NZAGSO in the 2013 year, this forced in low expenses. However, expenses have been rising gradually each year with a slight reduction showing this year. The expenses for the year were \$62,810 (\$3,800 less than last year, probably as a result of the unexpected expenditure last years of a World Service Delegate).

The NZ AI-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) and the Executive Committee continue working to minimize expenditure where possible. In the year to March 2018 there have been a number of changes:

- 1) Relocation of the NZAGSO Post Box (and there are now costs for clearing this)
- 2) Upgrade of the NZAGSO MYOB accounts to online
- 3) Trial of the new Toll Free system
- 4) Replacement of the NZAGSO laptop and software (after a catastrophic hard drive failure).

The result of a reduction in expenses is surprising with these changes which were all unbudgeted expenses. While there have been a number of changes in the year to year expenses the most easily identified item(s) where there has been a reduction of more than \$4,800 in the Board Member (including the Regional Board Member) expenses. We are anticipating expenses will rise again next year.

NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS					
Balance Sheet					
FY2017			Assets	2018	
			Cash at Bank		
\$ 3,247.14			ANZ-00 Cheque Account	\$ 3,603.01	
\$ 4,082.53			ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver	\$ 7,210.21	
\$ 12,055.83			ANZ-01 Online On Call	\$ 1,341.10	
\$ 58,596.78			ANZ-Ample Reserve Account	\$ 81,880.96	
	\$ 77,982.28		Total Cash at Bank		\$ 94,035
			Other Assets		
\$ 3.50			Sundry Debtors	-\$ 104	
\$ 3,995.50			Literature On hand	\$ 4,641	
	\$ 3,999.00		Total Other Assets		\$ 4,536
		\$ 81,981.28	Total Current Assets		\$ 98,572
			Fixed Assets		
\$ 151.53			Office Equipment over \$500	\$ 767	
	\$ 151.53		Total Fixed Assets		\$ 767
		\$ 82,132.81	Total Assets		\$ 99,338
			Liabilities		
\$ 1,140.65			Sundry Creditors	\$ 1,020	
			GST		
-\$ 905.12			GST on Purchases	-\$ 571	
			GST to/From IRD		
	-\$ 905.12		Total GST	-\$ 571	
		\$ 235.53	Total Liabilities		\$ 449
		\$ 81,897.28	Net Assets		\$ 98,889
Auditors Report to the Members of the Al-Anon Family Groups Fellowship					
I hereby report that I have examined the Books, Accounts and Vouchers of the Fellowship of the NZ Al-Anon General Services. In my opinion the Income and Expenditure Account presents a correct record of the year's transaction and the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to show a true and fair view of the affairs of NZ Al-Anon General Services as at 31 st March 2018 as far as verification is available in a society of this type					
Auditor – Murray Hunter FCPA FCIS				Date	

NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS					
AUDIT FINANCIAL POSITION FY 2018					
Profit and Loss					
FY2017 Actuals			FY2018 Actuals		
			Income		
			Donations		
			Area/Personal Donations		
\$ 4,061			Donations Area One	\$ 5,062	
\$ 94			Donations Area One Personal	\$ 79	
\$ 2,775			Donations Area Two	\$ 2,305	
\$ 64			Donations Area Two Personal		
\$ 6,608			Donations Area Three	\$ 7,032	
\$ 6,212			Donations Area Three Personal	\$ 7,631	
\$ 789			Donations Area Four	\$ 444	
\$ 200			Donations Area Four Personal		
\$ 2,790			Donations Area Five	\$ 1,868	
\$ 521			Donations Area Five Personal	\$ 300	
\$ 500			Donations Area Six	\$ 841	
\$ 196			Donations Area Six Personal	\$ 730	
\$ 11,754			Donations Area Seven	\$ 10,926	
\$ 4,933			Donations Area Seven Personal	\$ 11,721	
\$ 8,164			Donations Area Eight	\$ 8,378	
\$ 2,671			Donations Area Eight Personal	\$ 1,530	
\$ 2,970			Donations Area Nine	\$ 1,361	
\$ 636			Donations Area Nine Personal	\$ 678	
\$ 583			Donations - Birthday Club (ex Pe	\$ 448	
	\$ 56,519		Total Area/Personal Donations		\$ 61,333
			Other Donation Income		
\$ 6,050			Equalised Conference Contributi	\$ 5,984	
\$ 2,152			Convention Donations	\$ 3,393	
\$ 1,514			Messenger Donations	\$ 1,141	
	\$ 9,716		Total Other Donation Income		\$ 10,518
			Other Income		
			Total Donations		
			Other Income		
\$ -			Other Income		
\$ 6,619			Literature Profit	\$ 6,216	
\$ 1,513			Interest/Dividend Received	\$ 1,423	
\$ -			Received Interest - Term Deposit		
	\$ 8,132		Total Other Income		\$ 7,638
	\$ 74,367		Total Income		\$ 79,489

Profit & Loss Contd						
			Expenses			
\$ 40			ACC Levy	\$ 63	Postage recovered	\$ 1,154
\$ 174			Audit/Accounting Fees	\$ 174	Postage Paid	\$ 1,004
\$ 243			Assests<\$500			<u>-\$ 151</u>
\$ -			Archives			
\$ 5			Bank Charges			
\$ 9,101			Board Member Expenses	\$ 4,685		
\$ 335			NRBM Expenses	\$ 261		
			CRBM Expenses	\$ -		
\$ 494			SRBM Expenses	\$ 165		
\$ 726			Computer/Office Equipment	\$ 906		
\$ 483			Donation to WSO	\$ 697		
\$ 646			Accum Depreciation	\$ 267		
\$ 44			Charities Commission Fee	\$ 51		
\$ 6,995			Conference Payments	\$ 8,421		
\$ 2,160			Conference Travel Delegates	\$ 1,115		
\$ 203			Convention Expenses			
\$ 3,101			IAGSM Paid Expenses	\$ 3,450		
\$ 32			General Expenses			
\$ -			Insurance			
\$ 40			Postage (less recovered)	-\$ 151		
\$ 3,242			Printing & Stationery	\$ 2,007		
\$ 469			Public Outreach Expenses	\$ 2,036		
\$ 11,500			Rent & Rates	\$ 11,500		
			Repairs & Maintenance	\$ -		
\$ 48			Staff Amenities (ex Petty Cash)	\$ 91		
\$ 2,093			Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,960		
\$ 300			Volunteer Travel Fun	\$ 500		
\$ 23,455			Office Administration	\$ 22,883		
\$ 994			TEAM Expenses	\$ 576		
\$ 192			Stock Adjustment	\$ 95		
	<u>\$ 67,117</u>		Total Expenses		<u>\$ 61,751</u>	
		<u>\$ 7,251</u>	Net Profit/(Loss)			<u>\$ 17,739</u>
			Literature Income Account			
FY 2017				FY 2018		
	\$ 18,407		Literature Sales		\$ 17,780	
\$ 3,528			Opening Stock	\$ 3,893		
\$ 9,095			Purchases	\$ 9,068		
\$ 3,161	<u>\$ 15,784</u>		Freight	\$ 3,245	<u>\$ 16,205</u>	
\$ 3,996			Closing Stock	\$ 4,641		
	<u>11,788</u>		Cost of Sales		<u>11,565</u>	
		<u>6,619</u>	Profit on Sales			<u>6,216</u>
		36.0%				35.0%

NZ AL-ANON GENERAL SERVICES								
STATEMENT OF ASSETS								
AS AT 31 MARCH 2018								
Funds at Bank	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014			
ANZ-00 Cheque Account	\$3,603	\$2,781	\$2,781	\$4,985	\$7,545			
ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver Account	\$7,210	\$1,019	\$1,019	\$750	\$4,970			
ANZ Term Deposit				\$23,750	\$10,321			
ANZ -01 Online Call account	\$1,341	\$3,391	\$3,391	\$2,453	\$22,565			
ANZ eSaver Ample Reserve Acc	\$81,881	\$63,678	\$63,678	\$25,987				
undeposited cheques/cash					\$0			
	\$94,035	\$70,869	\$70,869	\$57,925	\$45,401			
Schedule of Fixed Assets and Depreciation For the Year Ended 31 March 2018								
ASSET	Date	Cost	Depr 17 Accum	Book Value 31-Mar-2017	Additions/ (Disposals)	Rate	Acc Depr 18	Book Value 31-Mar-2018
Office Equipment								
Binding Machine	1996	501	501	-		15.50% SL	-	-
Projector	Apr-12	1,128	977	151		17.50% SL	151	0
Brother Printer/Copier	May-13	599	599	(0)		30.00% SL	0	0
Computer (Pryon)	Aug-14	477	477	0		40.00% SL	0	0
MS Office (Computer)	Aug-14	624	624	0		40.00% SL	0	0
HP Laptop	Dec-17				882	40.00% SL	116	766
		3,329	3,178	151	882		267	766
Office Furniture								
Furniture	1988	2,791	2,791	-		10.00% SL	-	-
Shelving	1990	241	241	-		10.00% SL	-	-
Furniture	1991	344	344	-		10.00% SL	-	-
Moveable Shelving	1996	872	872	-		12.50% SL	-	-
Office Chair	1996	240	240	-		10.00% SL	-	-
Refrigerator	1996	199	179	-		15.50% SL	-	-
		4,687	4,667	-	-		-	-
Total Assets			7,845			Total	267	766
LITERATURE STOCK on Hand	31/03/2018	31/03/2017	31/03/2016	31/03/2015	31/03/2014			
at US dollars before freight	3,358	2,799	2,434	3,050	2,674			
Exchange rate at 31 March	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.75	0.86			
at NZ \$ Cost Price excluding GST	4,640.62	3,995.50	3,527.54	4,082.76	3,110			
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018								

General Secretary

General Secretary Report (Trial) Update – Year Three.

Arnold H

The responsibilities:

Support effective functioning of the Executive/Budget Committee and Board, working with each in preparing the meeting agenda.

The respective chairs of the Board and Executive /Budget committee set their own agendas. I see a draft agenda prior to the Board meeting and have opportunity to comment, add items or clarify subject matter. I am responsible for taking the minutes of the Board.

Julie M our Office Manager looks after the Budget/Executive Committee minutes.

I'd suggest rewording this responsibility "Support the Board Chair and members / Executive Chair and members as requested".

Work with the selected committees' chairs in helping see their roles and functions and act as a guiding force.

I attend executive committee meetings by phone as my work commitments allow.

I am part of the Editorial proof reading team and respond as required.

Literature and Public Outreach committees, if asked I contribute, to date I haven't been.

In this role I am the point of contact for TEAM events. These requests are discussed by the Board then ongoing discussion / planning is carried out by the Area/s running them.

AA events with AI Anon participation, these are received at NZAGSO who forward them to me and the relevant RBM for their action.

A member of the executive and budget committees and is an ex officio member of selected committees.

As indicated above.

I think this heading could be added to / reworded with the above guide/heading

Attends NZ AI-Anon Service Conference with an annual report for inclusion in the Conference Brochure.

This is the report.

So I think this probably is not needed. Throughout the year the General Secretary is part of Board decision making and all matters are reported through various committee Chairs.

Serves as the initial contact between WSO and the NZAGSO in all matter affecting both fellowships.

As General secretary the email set up for this position is set up to receive notifications from the WSO in respect of General Service Office's, IAGSM and Announcements – International Structures.

I was fortunate to meet Kerri Kindelan, Associate Director - International at the 2017 World Service Conference so I believe we have good communication, possibly helped by this personal meeting.

We did have a Skype session after our NZ Conference where I shared how this event went and some of the subject matter.

Co-operates with the Office Manager regarding all correspondence received at NZAGSO which relates to the fellowship (excludes administrative functions of NZAGSO).

We liaise as appropriate. The office manager forwards 12 Step type requests for information or membership queries about the issues they need information on. As the Office Manager has grown into the role I'm sure she now acts as a gate keeper for the many information requests AI-Anon NZ receives.

I have held this position for just over three years and come to the end of my term. I have chosen to step away and allow others the opportunity to serve.

From my terms / years at board level it certainly is good that one person is responsible for the minute taking at each meeting allowing others to fully participate in the meeting. This role has been designated as the point of contact for TEAM applications and ongoing communication between the Board and Area running the event. I have attended TEAM events this last year as I attended the WSC and members were keen to hear about this visit.

NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO)

Sam M, Budget/Executive Chair and Julie M, NZAGSO Office Manager

Volunteers

The NZAGSO is open three days a week Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 3.30 pm, the involvement of the regular volunteers is crucial. NZAGSO Volunteers are responsible for the picking, packing and shipping of literature orders for the fellowship. They also lovingly prepare the monthly mail-outs. The NZAGSO would not be able to function without the essential input of the 10 regular volunteers. There have been some changes in the volunteers, we have been delighted to have a new person join the team. We continue to be amazed at the support the volunteers provide and the opportunities for personal growth that it brings to everyone. To thank the volunteers, we hosted an end of year lunch in December, it was lovely time for relaxed fellowship. We continue to look for additional volunteers familiar with MYOB so work at the office can continue when Office Manager is absent.

After consideration and comparison of the KN10, the newcomers' packs developed for New Zealand, with the K10 Newcomers brochure from World Service Office, we decided to order the K10 from the World Service Office.

Literature

Literature continues to flow out to the fellowship from the NZAGSO. The World Service Office is no longer printing hard copies of How Al-Anon Works. We have advised the fellowship of this change and now order the soft copies. As previously mentioned, the K10 Newcomers' brochure has replaced the KN10.

We continue to run a regular book special including it in the NZ Al-Anon General Service Office News changing it every two months to make literature more financially accessible to the fellowship.

Top Book Sales for 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

Item	Title	Number sold
B16	Courage To Change	56
B22	How Al-Anon Works	40
P92	Reaching for Personal Freedom	36
B06	One Day At A Time	38
P05	Blue Print For Progress (small)	12
P91	Blue Print For Progress	22
B27	Hope For Today	30
B24	Paths To Recovery	19
P49	Living with Sobriety	8
B04	Dilemma Of Alcoholic Marriage	12
B21	From Survival to Recovery	17
KN10	Newcomers Pack	680

Group Numbers

In NZ there are currently 94 groups with the following group closures and new groups

New Groups	Disbanded Groups
Whitianga Serenity AFG	Dannevirke AFG
Addington AFG	Reefton AFG
Whangarei Strength & Hope AFG	Rotherham AFG
Wainuiomata AFG	Hornby AFG
Wellington Traditions AFG	Tokoroa AFG
Hokitika AFG	Ōtāhuhu Personal Freedom AFG
Nelson Thursday Night AFG	Inglewood AFG
Personal Freedom Ōtāhuhu AFG	New Plymouth L/t AFG
Red Beach Trust Alateen AFG	

The breakdown of the groups is as follows:

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Al-Anon Groups	89	86	82	84	84
Groups focus on Adult Children	2	2	2	2	2
Alateen Groups	3	3	3	4	3
AIS	0	0	0	0	0
Loners	13	12	12	7	7
Institutions	0	0	0	0	0

Birthday Club

There are currently 31 members subscribing to the Birthday Club and a volunteer makes the beautiful handmade cards that are enjoyed by subscribers.

Mailouts

Every month NZAGSO mail out to all groups the NZ Al-Anon News which provides the fellowship with information on happenings in NZAGSO, recent fundraising activities, opportunities for members to take up national service positions, literature specials and any new literature that is available to the fellowship, plus monthly financial reporting. The mail out also includes the Messenger to subscriber (groups and individuals). There are currently 124 Messenger subscribers (88 Postal and 36 email). The whole mail out is sent to 216 recipients with 102 being by post and 114 being sent by email. It is good to see that we are reducing the number of postal items gradually.

Messenger

The previous Messenger Editor finished their term in October 2017. It took until February 2018 thanks to the new Messenger Editor and her team. Groups and individuals were credited for the four months they did not receive the Messenger.

Office and Equipment

The NZAGSO lease currently runs until June 2018. Negotiations to renew the lease will be undertaken.

The website and 0508 telephone numbers have been separately reported on by the Treasurer.

This year we have worked on removing old Forums from the NZAGSO and have passed them on to the Areas to sell. This has further increased room for the NZ Al-Anon Archivist to work and has also been an effective fundraiser.

The MYOB programme was changed from a stand-alone system to a cloud-based system during the year and Bernadette Sands set up the new system. This removes the risk of data being lost which happened in the past.

We purchased a new laptop to be used by the Executive Budget Committee, the Board and at Conference.

The Executive Budget Committee completed an inventory in June 2017 and will be carrying out an inventory in July 2018.

Following the closure of the NZ Post Branch in Karangahape Road, our post box was moved to Wellesley Street. Following a thorough investigation of options and a KBDM paper, the Committee decided to pay NZ Couriers to deliver our mail to us twice per week. Unfortunately, the delivery service dropped down to once a week. However, after some deft detective work and research by some of the Executive Budget Committee, the delivery is back on track twice a week. A refund is being negotiated from NZ Post for their service neglect.

We contributed to the World Service Office this year.

Northern Regional Board Member

Chris H

AREA 6

Area Six unfortunately continues to struggle. In order to assist Area 6 I devoted my entire \$300.00 annual travel budget to Area 6 on the basis that Area 6 will meet travel expenses for Area 6 travel beyond my budget. I have attended and will attend Assemblies for Area 7 and Area 8 and AA Northern Area Assemblies as a member at my own cost – as I would do irrespective of my role as NRBM.

I have attended Area Six Assemblies in Tauranga on Saturday 15 July 2017 and in Rotorua on Saturday 14 October 2017 and will attend the Assembly in Tauranga on Saturday 17 March 2018.

Area Six Assemblies are disappointingly small with few of the groups sending Group Representatives. It is also disappointing that there are only three groups in the whole of Hamilton and only one group in the whole of each of Tauranga and Rotorua. I have encouraged, and will continue to encourage, the undertaking of public outreach efforts.

On a positive note the Area Committee works hard and has rotated membership with newer and younger committed members stepping into service roles. I believe this to be a good sign for the Area.

The Area has agreed to trial in June 2018 holding an Assembly on Sunday in the hope that more of the younger members with young families might be able to attend.

The Area encourages groups to email group reports to an Area Six Gmail account (to which all of the groups and the committee members have access) before the Area Committee meeting which precedes the Area Assembly. This is intended to ensure that any items which should be on the agenda for the Area Assembly are notified in advance and that the opportunity is given for Knowledge Based Decision Making to be exercised.

The Area held a Serenity Weekend at Papamoa on 27/29 October 2017. The event was a success in terms of the benefit to those who attended and in terms of members attracted from other Areas but at this stage I understand that the costs were not entirely recovered. There was, however, enthusiasm from those who attended to the extent that several have indicated a willingness to serve on the Committee to arrange another such event.

On 11 November 2017 the Rotorua group hosted the Al-Anon participation in the AA Northern Area Assembly and did a fabulous job of it. Attendance from our fellowship was disappointing with few even of the local members attending. Two members from Area Seven travelled from Auckland to support the event.

AREA 7

I have attended Area Seven Assemblies on 19 August 2017 at Ellerslie, on 18 November 2017 in the Central City and on 17 February 2018 at Ellerslie.

The Area is active with Public Outreach but had struggled to fill its committee roles. The Area Secretary and Area Treasurer roles had been filled only on a "temporary" basis and the Area Highlights Editor was about to become vacant. I was delighted to notice that the destructively critical attitudes of a few dominant members in the Area which I believed to have been discouraging other members from stepping forward into service was not present at the May Assembly, that the many Area Seven members who had previously been involved in service at the Area level and National level but had been missing from recent Assemblies had returned in significant numbers and the vacant Area positions were all filled. The Area had decided at the November Assembly to seek to arrange a workshop on service and that is progressing.

The "turn-around" was pleasing to watch.

The "pop-up" meeting at Ellerslie grew into a full stand-alone meeting and many of the members of that group have stepped into Area service.

The “pop-up” meeting at Otahuhu proved not to be viable after five months of effort and closed. A suitable venue is still being sought to establish a “pop-up” meeting in Auckland’s Eastern Suburbs (Parnell, Remuera, Mission Bay or St Heliers etc.) and sufficient experienced members have agreed to firmly commit to attend every week for four to six months.

The Area hosted an A.A. Northern Area Assembly in Remuera on 16 July 2017. Despite the central Auckland venue attendance was disappointing but the event was well run.

The Area combined with Area Eight for the T.E.A.M. event held on 7 October 2017, will host the AA Northern Area Assembly at Howick on Saturday 10 March 2018 and on Friday 23 March 2018 to Sunday 25 March 2018 will repeat the always popular “Who Am I” Recovery Weekend at Aio Wira.

AREA 8

Area Eight Assemblies are held at Point Chevalier. I attended the Assembly on Saturday 4 August 2017, was prevented by my health at the time me from attending the Assembly on Saturday 4 November 2017 but attended the Assembly on Saturday 10 February 2018. Usually attendance is good but was disappointing at the latest event despite the Area Committee having moved the date to get away from Waitangi weekend.

Several of the Area Eight Committee members have been struck with serious health problems but roles have been “juggled” and the Area has coped well. The Committee clearly works well together and the members appear to enjoy their service - which does make service attractive. A new Committee member was attracted and elected to an introductory role at the last Assembly.

The Area is active with Public Outreach.

The Area combined with Area Seven for the T.E.A.M. event held on 7 October 2017 at the Point Chevalier venue. Attendance was very good and donations received more than covered the Areas’ costs. The Board’s costs were, of course, not recovered. The Board awaits a full report of the event from the Area 7 and 8 Delegates.

The Area Eight Committee has repeatedly requested through the Area Eight Delegate that the Board arrange to have a donation button added to our website. The Area has been invited to submit to the Board a comprehensive Knowledge Based Decision Making paper to enable the proposal to be assessed from a Knowledge Based perspective.

The Area will host a “Living Well Recovery Day” on Saturday 17 March 2018 at Point Chevalier. It will unfortunately clash with my commitment to attend the Area Six Assembly in Tauranga on that date.

Southern Regional Board Member

Melda T

Area One Assembly was hosted by the Alexandra Al-Anon Family Group on November 25th 2017 at the Alexandra Community House. A good attendance of 17 members for the business meeting. With 10 GRs presenting this was very encouraging.

Matters Arising

Service positions vacant: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and Public Outreach.

Gaye stepped in as interim Secretary for the day. Nominations held till General Business.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of financial report handed out. Total balance \$1854.80 Money for Delegates expenses and donation to be forwarded to NZAGSO.

Group and Service Reports

The groups reported they were all meeting their financial commitments, membership numbers had improved in some meetings. Small meetings are staying stable with two to three regular attending and the occasional visitor dropping in. One Invercargill group that has been sponsored by another group has decided to stand on their own, they have a secretary now.

Serenity Weekend was another success, the program was changed, a workshop entitled "How to take your Serenity Home" was enjoyed by everyone and will be repeated.

Area Delegate: Karen gave a very informative report on the National Toll Free Number, Public Outreach, and Website Review. She also resubmitted her conference report as it didn't get sent out to GRs.

Literature: Sales have been very slow only three books sold this quarter.

General Business: Nominations: Area Committee

Chair: Trevor was nominated for a 2nd Term voted on and approved

Treasurer: Shona was nominated for a 2nd Term voted on and approved

Secretary: Gaye was nominated, she wanted time, until next Assembly to consider.

Public Outreach: No nominations.

Colleen suggested members be encouraged to think about service positions at Area level and prepare over the three year term, to have replacements for service positions aware of criteria and encouraged to participate in service.

Area Two Business meeting held at Serenity Weekend on Sunday 26/11/17. 11 attended.

Correspondence: A letter of resignation from Victoria as Public Outreach Coordinator.

General Business: Service Roll: Secretary position no nomination. A nomination has since been received.

Public Outreach: Is vacant and needs a team.

Anne-Marie stepping down as Chair at next meeting. Nominations being called for.

Request for support from Thursday night Addington AFG they are in recess and are hoping for support to resume in the New Year.

Serenity Weekend: A report to follow from Dave on yesterday's events.

Formal Complaint re: Serenity Weekend to be investigated

It was decided at the last Area meeting. Alternate Area meetings will have a workshop. Sponsorship is the topic Bishopdale AFG are to host.

Fundraising: Movie night at Kaiapoi. "When Love is not Enough."

Treasurer's Report; Group donations to Area for the last quarter, funds were received from five groups. All authorised payments are up to date, the balance in the bank is below the agreed reserve. At this stage Area Two is unable to make a donation to NZAFG.

Group and Service Reports: Area Two Delegate Sarah R reported on the Timaru AA Assembly. She expressed her disappointment that there was only herself and one other Al-Anon member attended from Area Two. She said it was a wonderful weekend, with good sharing and fellowship and encouraged members to think about attending these events. She also explained how to use the Al-Anon website, and to get into the members site.

Telephone Coordinator: Reported receiving 13 calls in the last quarter.

Literature: Two people attend, on a monthly basis and speak to 4th form students. They are finding it a rewarding service. Jess also helps members learn how to order literature online.

The rest of the group reports were very short. Largest meetings 12-13 attending, smallest 2-3 attending. And all had a core of old timers with healthy recoveries, as well as new members and visitors. They are using a range of literature and have great fellowship, sharing and support.

Area Nine Assembly business meeting held in Greymouth on 4th-5th Nov 2017 nine attended.

Business Arising: The Nelson Practice Nurses organisation declined an offer of an Al-Anon speaker at one of their meetings, saying they already had an addiction meeting planned. Discussion on the need for signage outside each meeting. Marg suggested taking PO material to print shop. Jill from Nelson nominated for Alt Area Delegate.

General Business: Blenheim offered to host 2018 Serenity Weekend 5th-6th-7th October at Marahau Outdoor Education Centre. The \$100.00 deposit to be paid from Area account. The 'Bring and Buy' money to be used for this. Lois' Missile will be raffled at next Assembly.

Public Outreach: No nominations for PO position. Three Monday members made a successful presentation to Citizens Advice. Outcome was a new member.

I haven't received Service or Group reports.

Committee Reports:

Conference Report

Julie W, Conference Chair

I accepted this service position late in the year and was thankful for the work that had been done already by the Board Chair and members of the Board. Their support and wisdom has been invaluable when taking on a position mid-way through the year.

It is my pleasure to be working with an excellent team of helpers that have been pulled together, all of a sudden, to assist in making this conference an enjoyable and informative experience. Jess our Conference host, who was host in Christchurch in 2018, will assist in the background again this year. Angie M has coordinated the scribes who will be on hand at each session to ensure accurate recording of proceedings. Bev C our transport coordinator will provide assistance to get you to the right place at the right time. Renée has been a tremendous support with producing the Conference Brochure. Our special thanks also to the volunteers assisting these members, past conference chair and committee members for their input and the staff at NZAGSO for their continued support.

There will be the usual evaluation form for you to complete at the completion of conference to help us plan for the next year. We look forward to your positive and constructive feedback.

Editorial

Melda T, Editorial Chair/Editor

I was delighted to take over the Editor's position of The Messenger in December 2017.

With my home group's willing support, I started asking members to send in sharings. And got a good response.

We all wanted to get the Messenger out as quickly as possible.

February was our first edition. We are all delighted at the positive feedback I have received.

Thank you to the members who have taken the time to encourage us, also the wonderful members who volunteer at NZAGSO to print, pack and post them out.

The Messenger I believe is a very important part of Al-Anon. Keep your sharings coming in. It is a meeting in print for the Lone Member.

Literature Committee Report

Marie W, Literature Chair

The past year has been slow in progress for the Literature committee due to the Chair (me!) being very slow to pull our committee together. We have made progress in the past couple of months so I have listed our activities and thinking below.

Given the large scale refresh the NZ Handbook received last year the committee has decided to focus on updating our various Guidelines as collated in the KN-17. These guidelines will be GN-12 Group Secretary/Treasurer and GN-15 District Meetings.

The following guidelines are ones that we have identified need to be reviewed. There are, of course plenty more however this is what we believe is a current priority order.

1. GN-12 Group Secretary/Treasurer
2. GN-15 District Meetings
3. PIN-2 Workshop: Tradition Eleven
4. GN-8 Taking a Group Inventory
5. GN-1 Members Interested in Speaking
6. GN-22 Meetings on Wheels - we could remove this and replace with Skype meetings

Yours in Service
Marie W

Public Outreach

Tracy B, Public Outreach Chair

National Public outreach has been busy. Sally-ann met with Tracy on skype and handed over all of the PO achievements to date and tasks and assignments currently unfolding. We spent time discussing 2018 and where to next plus what PO might look like at Conference.

Google AdWords

	Clicks	Impressions	Click Through Rate	Cost USD (donated by Google)
September	0	0	0	
October	101	2,236	4.52	70.97
November	143	3,871	3.69	113.34
December	82	2,471	3.32	61.88
January	40	1,488	2.69	32.66

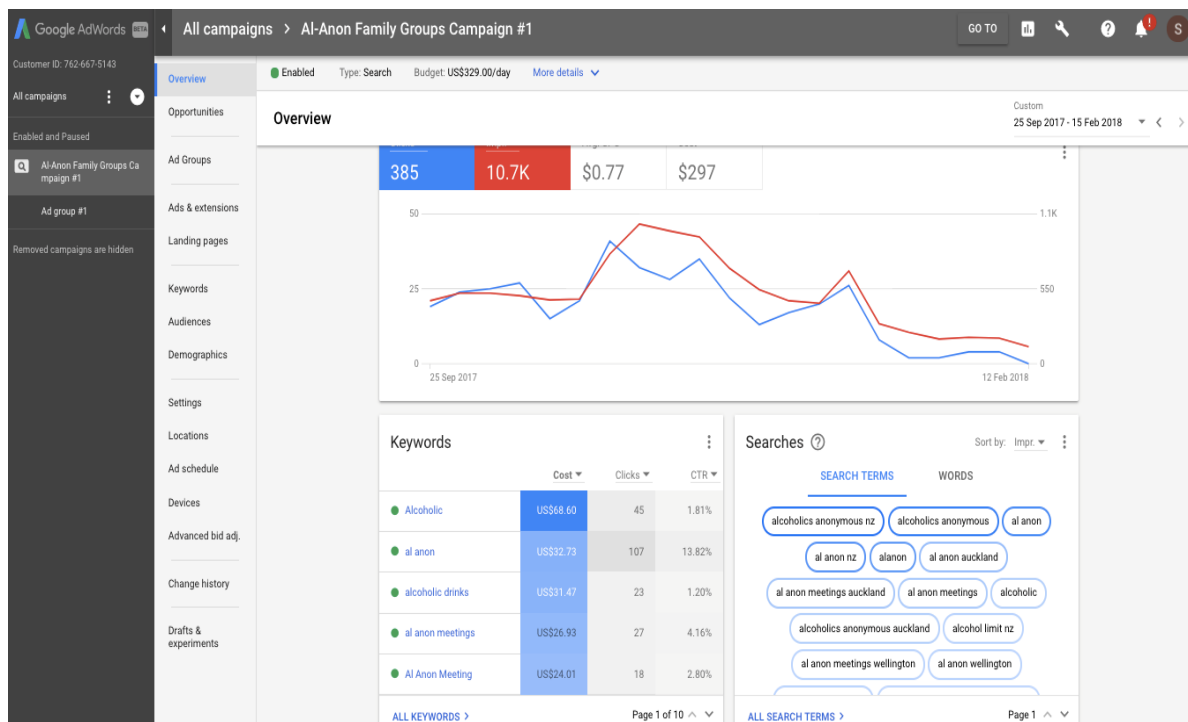
The Google AdWords AFG Not-For-Profit campaign went live on 25 Sep 2017.

Data since campaign began is positive and shows the value to us of the service if we were paying for us.

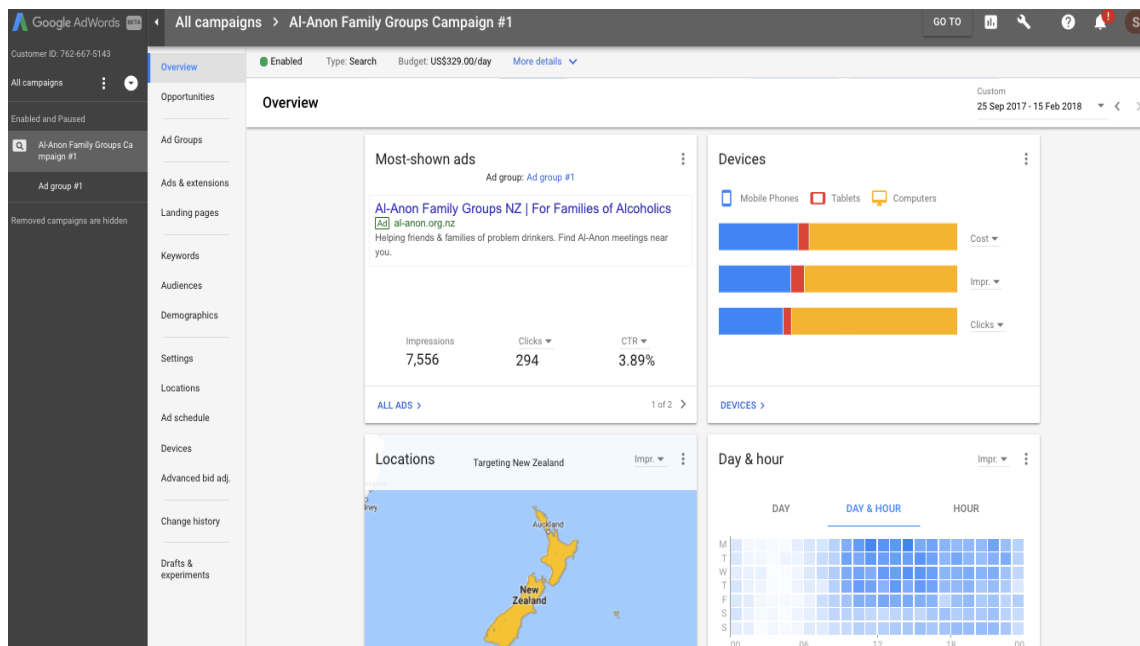
Being involved in Google AdWords with a Not-For-Profit grant means that we get to be found at the very top of Google searches (provided that a paying client doesn't already have the spot). This means we are easier to find.

The image below shows one of our reporting pages. At a glance you can view clicks (blue line) and impressions (red line) across the campaign so far.

Also shown are some of the key words we use and some of the search words that have been used recently by people looking for us.



This image below shows what our campaign looks like to the person searching, what devices people are searching for us from plus what times of day people are searching for us.



There is a great deal of data available and in the future I imagine it will be of great use. For example when we are running future AdWords campaigns and when we are designing a new website in the future.

Cutting Edge

Cutting Edge is the NZ Addiction Practitioners Association annual conference. The 2017 Theme was: Addiction is everybody's business. The conference runs for two days. In 2017 the dates were Thursday 7th and Friday 8th September 2017 at Te Papa in Wellington.

Al-Anon Family Groups national PO co-ordinator identified that AA, NA and OA have had a presence at these conferences in previous years. This year there was time to investigate if it would be possible for AFG to have a stand also. The event is billed as "... an ideal opportunity to build or strengthen relationships with this hard to reach target audience and increase their exposure to your (products and/or) services". The Board and the wider fellowship agreed so in 2017 we worked towards our attendance for the first time.

Speaking to professionals in the addiction field is a huge untapped market for Al-Anon NZ and so being at a conference where there were over 500 of them, from all across NZ, in one place was a fantastic opportunity to carry the message.

We worked on the stand for three days as the 6th was pack-in day to set up the exhibition stand. There was a separate hall for the exhibition stands and we were next to AA which was ideal. The stand was 3m x 2m with a table which we positioned to the side and used for literature. This meant that the stand was open and inviting. Especially so since we had some set dressing to make it look like a 'sitting room' complete with photos of our founders (or our whakapapa), Bill and Lois and Dr Bob and Anne.

The cost for the exhibition stand was \$1,200 +gst which was met by the National PO budget. That cost included a pass for one person to staff the stand. There were scholarships available and so we applied for one of those so that a second member could attend but keep the cost down. Being positioned next to the AA stand was an advantage, whilst most people had not heard of AFG they all knew about AA and so we were able to cooperate and take a joint approach to talking with people.

We were able to hold an open public meeting on the Thursday lunch break hosted by local members.

We had a full table of literature including books to show and flyers to give away.

Challenges

- This was the first time that AFG NZ had ever attended a conference of this sort and as such it was all very new.
- We rang AA for their experience strength and hope and they were very helpful and shared their knowledge of hosting a stand.
- One of the local AFG organising committee had experience of exhibition designing and working in trade shows so was able to bring that skill to the task.
- We had to get hold of high resolution AFG logos from WSO for use in the exhibition catalogue.
- The largest number of people were there at break time and so we had two people on the stand at those times but it was important to have someone there all the time throughout both days as some people preferred to approach when it was quieter.
- It was during the day and so meant that members had to take time off work to staff the stand.

Learnings

- Start planning early, as soon as the venue is announced
- Get a committee so the work doesn't fall to just a few
- Use Māori literature on the stand
- Have the serenity prayer in Māori/other languages
- Perhaps use the word whanau instead of family in the sign

Successes

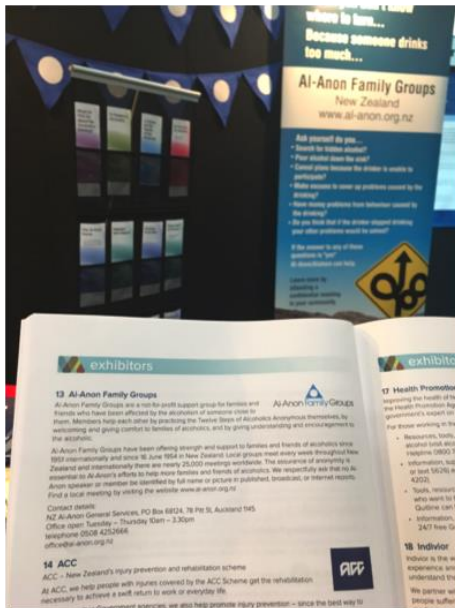
- Networking - we met a great many professionals working in addiction
- Handing out business cards and pamphlets to the professionals working in addiction
- Name recognition was hugely increased
- Credibility for AFG - people saw us and got to hear from us what we do for the community
- We collected business cards and contact details of people who want to hear more about AFG
- The stand was attractive and welcoming

Recommendations

- Have tablet set up with the map showing where meetings are held, a common question was 'is there a meeting where I live/work?'
- Have meetings lists for the whole of NZ available
- Have an interesting/eye-catching theme for the stand. This year we made it look like a home/or a living room with a rug, standard lamp, table, chair and photos of the founders. Perhaps in the future a kiwi holiday or a Christmas scene would be a good idea. Feedback was that people liked our stand, were attracted to it, and wanted to come and hear what we were about
- Make sure the literature is tailored specifically to the target audience - professionals
- Use Māori language where possible
- Have two professional, approachable and friendly people on the stand. Another fellowship present had grumpy, unapproachable people on their stand and it was not attractive
- Hold an open meeting at lunchtime and mention it in the blurb for the program
- Have lollies in the jar as an incentive to collect business cards



Our table was covered in an AFG blue tablecloth, we had AFG bunting draping the walls and the pull-up banner to make our stand eye-catching and attractive.



← The Cutting Edge programme featured a blurb about AFG and our logo. Also the lunchtime meeting was included in the timetable.

The literature table was kept well stocked and we used the tablet to show people where meetings were across New Zealand. ↓



Cutting Edge 2018 is being held in Rotorua 12 - 15 September at the Energy Event Centre. The 2018 theme is "It's all about connection."

New National Public Outreach tool – the bottle image



This bottle image has been approved for use in NZ by our World Service Office.

Models were used in the image, not members.

As the result of the NZ Drug and Alcohol Foundation survey shows, AA is one of our biggest potential outreach avenues. This is a place where the general public goes to find out where to get help for families of alcoholics. As a national event the AA Convention is an ideal outreach exercise especially when focusing on the open public meeting.

For this Convention we decided to create and debut a new social awareness image aimed to speak directly to those affected by the disease and to give them attractive information about the public meeting.

We booked a free for Not-For-Profit use billboard through Wellington City Council that is situated right next to the Wellington Railway Station and the billboard was up for a month from 21 December to 22 January.



We also tapped into free Not-For-Profit community announcements on local radio to share about the public event and we booked a discounted Not-For-Profit poster campaign through Phantom Billstickers. We also put up posters ourselves in cafes and on community notice boards across the region.

A member was interviewed by a local paper to raise awareness of the public meeting but the paper decided not to run the piece in the end.

The bottle image will be shown and shared to the Area Delegates for wider fellowship use at Convention. It will also then go online for more use and easy access.



MiNDFOOD Magazine Article and Letter to the Editor from a member

In two recent publications of the MiNDFOOD Magazine, December 2017 and March 2018, Al-Anon Family Groups has featured. A letter of gratitude and appreciation was sent to the Editor of the MiNDFOOD Magazine following the printing of the article and letter from one of our members. This has been sent with the hope of highlighting our fellowship in the NZ communities and outlining our availability to assist with future publications.

SAVED MY LIFE

It was heartening to see the reference made to Al-Anon Family Groups in your recent article "Are You a Binge Drinker?" (December 2017). I felt completely insane and fearful of the future, after years of trying to control my son's excessive drinking and other addictions. My family was in turmoil and my life's mission became the prevention of family arguments and peacekeeping at all costs. I failed miserably. The Al-Anon programme and support of Al-Anon members literally saved my life. Al-Anon is a non-religious, anonymous 12-step programme for families and friends of problem drinkers, which offers help in a safe environment without judgement or criticism. To anyone out there whose life is unmanageable due to another person's problem drinking, give Al-Anon meetings a try. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Susan

REACHING OUT THE DARK SIDE OF DRINKING

When a little becomes a little too much for you or someone you know, here's what you can do.


HELPING HAND

Lois Adaway, CEO of Al-Anon Family Groups (al-anon.org.nz), says if the drinking and associated behaviour of someone close causes you problems, attending Al-Anon Family Groups may help. Feelings of anxiety, guilt, anger, resentment, shame and fear in family members or friends due to the drinking of another person are symptoms that the drinking is causing problems.

Adaway says people behave in ways they wouldn't usually act when alcohol affects their brain. Aggressive/abusive behaviour by alcohol-affected people causes families great hurt and often physical harm. And in social settings, it is not just family members who can be in danger of emotional and physical harm.

For anybody worried about another's drinking, Adaway says the frequency of it is less important than the effect it has on the people involved. Family and/or friends can live in constant anxiety and fear, as a drinker's behaviour can be quite unpredictable.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE THE RISK OF BINGE DRINKING?

The Ministry of Health recommends not drinking more than four standard drinks for women/five for men on any occasion – and that's assuming you're drinking over the space of at least a few hours. People can reduce the risk of binge drinking by knowing what a standard drink is; keeping count of how many they've had; and setting a drink limit and sticking to it. Not drinking is the safest option for anyone under 18 years of age, pregnant women or women planning pregnancy or breastfeeding. 

16/02/2018

McHugh Media Limited

3A / 255 Broadway
Newmarket
Auckland 1023
New Zealand

Attention: Mr Michael McHugh

Dear Michael,

Recently in two of recent issues of MiNDFOOD (December 2017 and March 2018) you published an article "The dark side of drinking" outlining the help that is available from Al-Anon Family Groups in New Zealand to anyone who has been affected by someone else's drinking and a letter to the Editor from a one our members who outlined her own experience in attending Al-Anon Family Groups.

I wish to take the opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Al-Anon Family Groups here in New Zealand for publishing this article and the letter as by doing so you are bringing awareness to the help and support that is available and free on a daily basis for friends and families of problem drinkers.

We are a not-for-profit and rely solely on the donations of our members for our continued services to NZ communities. Affording space in your magazine is well beyond our meagre budgets and we are hugely grateful for the article and subsequent letter that you chose to print. It means a lot to a great many people.

If you wish to have more information regarding our fellowship here in NZ, or wish to in the future take the opportunity to anonymously interview some members of our fellowship to gain a better understanding of the impact of this disease on families, please feel free to contact me on 027 280 5673 or my email address: tracy.lee.blackwell@gmail.com where I will be more than happy to assist you.

With sincere thanks

Tracy Blackwell
National Publicity for Al-Anon Family Groups

Public Outreach Calendar 2018

January

The Annual AA Convention participation. AA is our biggest and most effective potential new member source to reach friends and families of Alcoholics. Ask how you can support the Convention Public Outreach team.

March

4th March is Lois' birthday – leave literature on Lois' birthday in strategic places in the community: Doctors' offices, refuges, waiting rooms, cafes etc...

May

In 1951 Lois and Anne unify the Al-Anon Groups across America. NZ Areas are encouraged to host an OPEN meeting in honour of this anniversary and invite the public, professional, medical institutions, doctors and the media. Let's make this event an annual nationwide event that is attractive and helps raise credibility and 'name awareness' of Al-Anon Family Groups as a community service.

June

On the 16th of June it is the Anniversary of Al-Anon Family Groups beginning in Dunedin – this is a big media angle and we can tell our personal stories to magazines, letters to the editor, on the radio in all kinds of places if we work together to carry the message of hope.

December

Holiday Season. A first person interview and a poster campaign would be ideal with billboards and posters perhaps in cafes attracting people to our message of hope.

Remember: We are all responsible to tell: Who we are • What we do • How to find us.

Use the full name "Al-Anon Family Groups" rather than just "Al-Anon". (This helps eliminate the confusion that Al-Anon is another way of saying Alcoholics Anonymous). Add local phone numbers and www.al-anon.org.nz to Public Outreach literature.

For additional tips on Public Outreach Activities for the **NZ Al-Anon Family Groups**, please use Public Outreach Tips (https://www.al-anon.org.nz/public_outreach)

AA Convention 2018

Sally-ann M, Convention Chair

The 55th Alcoholics Anonymous New Zealand Convention with Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) participation was held on 19, 20, 21 January at Te Papa, Wellington.

The AFG theme was "Our lives will be transformed" from Survival to Recovery pg 267-269. (The AA theme was "Are these extravagant promises? We think not" from the Big Book.)

Overall attendance:

400 people attended the Convention

79 people as AFG

321 as AA

Registrations for AFG were up in 2018 and I'm thrilled to report that our members registered early. We only had 15 day registrations this year (in 2015 27 people, or 40% of the total, registered on the day which was disheartening). Registering early helps the committee have the facts to share with AA for AFG room size and refreshment numbers. So a huge thank you to all who registered early! 49% of those who pre-registered were from Central Area (48% were from Area Three itself).

Because AFG matches the programme that AA creates, in 2018 we held more meetings than at previous Conventions. Eg: Both 2015 and 2017 held only five AFG meetings. This year we held eight (not counting the public meeting).

The meeting topics were all chosen from the promises as outlined in 'from Survival to Recovery'. We brainstormed what those promises meant to us and chose one word to represent each promise. Then we narrowed them down to our eight favourites. At Convention we wrote the full quote for each meeting on a whiteboard at the front of the room. This helped people stay on topic during each meeting.

Breakdown of AFG meeting attendance numbers:

Day/Time	Topic	Est. No.
Friday 7:30pm	Love/Aroha	35
Saturday 8:30am	Courage	56
Saturday 10:15am	Forgiveness	59
Saturday 1pm	Hope	77
Saturday 2:15	Truth	55
Saturday 4pm	Freedom	60
Sunday 8:30am – <i>Board Panel</i>	Evolution Toward Wholeness	63
Sunday 10:15am – <i>AA co-chair</i>	Serenity and Peace	53

Fundraising (Deb):

The fundraising table at the convention gave the opportunity to generate a donation stream for NZAGSO. Members created a range of homemade products that were in keeping with the overall theme of the convention, raising over \$1000 in funds. Huge thanks to the previous fundraising committees generous donation of tea towels and bags. The key to success was to keep it simple, and to engage several willing members to create products for sale. Popular items were homemade retro blanket cushions and printed anonymous AFG T-Shirts.

Literature (Liz):

Ordered in ample time, included Alateen and Newcomers material for the public open meeting. The literature display was well positioned near the doors as you arrived and attractive, as were the volunteers. We had prepared well for the public event and had materials and meetings lists to give away. We purchased \$765.20 of literature from NZAGSO and Area Three supplied and sold a further \$179 worth of literature.

Publicity (Lynne):

We planned ahead to make sure that awareness of the 55th AA Convention was high both within the fellowship and for the public.

Quite early in the planning we created an attractive digital flyer that could be sent instantly to members across various apps and social media platforms. This was sent to members overseas and had a positive attraction effect.

The main focus of publicity for this event was the development of a new social awareness image that was used to announce the public meeting on the Saturday evening. We utilised not-for-profit media placement on radio, in poster spaces and a large outdoor billboard. The total cost for publicity was \$1456.10 split between Area and National PO budgets.

(digital flyer)

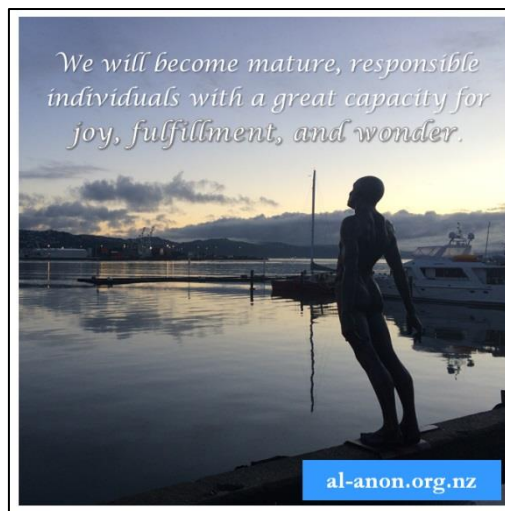


Creative design (Renée):

After the beautiful theming the AAs did at the 2017 Convention in Christchurch, we decided we wanted to make our event themed too. Given the theme was out of the book *from Survival to Recovery* we choose to use the same red, black, grey and white colours and did a 'billing' or movie look to all our collateral.

We had posters telling people what the meeting topic was now and for the next meeting (so they could plan to come along if the topic appealed). We had convention programmes for all to take away.

We also made use of the Solace in the Wind picture that we had used, linking with the AA's original Convention save the date flyer.



We also printed 50 or so of the photos that appear on AFG social media, as well as creating a New Zealand one using Solace in the Wind.

As a committee we all agreed to wear red, black, white and grey, the colours of the cover of the book: from Survival to Recovery and to dress in a professional, tidy manner.

To be easily identifiable at the Convention the committee wore red, black and white lanyards and had badges created from a piece of art drawn by a member.



Treasurer (Renée):

We raised a total of \$1928.45 for NZAGSO at the Convention. This was done

by passing two 7th Tradition baskets at each meeting (with only AFG members invited to contribute), selling handmade crafts, running raffles and taking orders for LOVE, HOPE, JOY tee shirts a member designed, as well as selling books and giving away \$83 worth of leaflets and newcomers packs.

AA contribution to AFG:

We are grateful to have been given a percentage of the profits from AA which amounts to \$2,058.48.

The challenges:

A couple of AA committee members were at times openly hostile and difficult to work with. Luckily the majority of the AA committee were warm and welcoming.

AFG were assigned different meeting rooms for each different day. This meant that we had to pack in and pack out three times. This created an unnecessary work for the committee and confusion about where the final spiritual meeting was. The decision to do this was not ours.

The walls were quite thin and we were asked to keep it down a few times.

No Alateans registered. This meant that we chose to not plan a meeting for them.

AA chose not to put both programmes in the lanyard despite being asked to do so. We got around this by printing copies of both programmes and giving them out at the AFG registration desk.

AA changed their programme right up to the very last minute. Luckily we knew to expect this so were able to adjust the AFG programme accordingly to match. We did however have to remove an entire meeting/chair/speakers from Saturday to accommodate this change.

The successes:

Creating and sending out a save-the-date flyer in January 2017 and encouraging the AFG membership to register early paid off.

Making sure that Board members and Delegates had the save-the-date flyer in time for March 2017 (and subsequent) Area Assemblies was extremely helpful in carrying the message.

The Committee had a brainstorming session in Feb 2017 where they discussed what worked/what didn't work at previous Conventions they had attended.

Creating a Convention digital image and Convention email sign off made the event information attractive and easy to share.

The printed tablecloth with matching AFG logo bunting looked sensational and made our rooms look professional and attractive.

We had an AFG chair alongside the AA chair at the Saturday night meeting.

We chose two very strong and capable local AFG speakers. I have had feedback that a Wellington meeting is already seeing increased numbers as a direct result of the public meeting.

We decided to keep the chairperson's opening short and sweet so that we could have more sharing time. This meant we did not read the legacies. However they were on the wall.

We took a risk and tried hosting a Board discussion panel early on Sunday morning. This idea came from the IAGSM in 2016. We invited the entire Board to be on the panel, invited a new Board member to be the facilitator, pre-prepared some questions and also welcomed questions from the floor. Answers were from personal experience and from CAL. Board members shared their EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE and were very generous and open in their responses. Feedback on this panel session has been hugely positive.

We asked an AA member to co-host the final spiritual AFG meeting. He invited many long-time AA members who shared richly engaging and humbling stories of their experience in recovery. It was an incredibly moving meeting as there was great sharing about early AFG memories from the AAs, which involved a lot of family recovery.

Recommendations for future Conventions:

- Ask for AA to include the AFG programme in the lanyard so that all Convention attendees have the knowledge about both programmes for the weekend.
- Ensure that the AFG room comfortably seats 80+ people and allows room for both a chairperson's and a fundraising table.
- Create a simple and attractive save-the-date flyer with the venue and the dates on it. Ideally to hand out at the Convention before yours.
- Put a website link (with a disclaimer) from the AFG website to the AA Convention registration online page.
- Send guidelines and Chair opening to chairpersons outlining what their job is.
- Keep a list of names of those that share across the weekend to help make sure that there is a good mix of people sharing and not only the same extroverts at each meeting.
- Encourage your committee to create sub-committees that they lead. This is a great way to involve newer members in service, but keep the Convention Committee experienced and focused. Our fundraising and literature persons did this with great results.
- Keep a list of local volunteers and use them across the weekend. Get the volunteers to commit to timeframes for staffing the registration and literature desks including during meetings so that the workload is shared.
- Have time-keepers with good boundaries, compassion, common sense and sense of fun.
- Ask AA if we can have at least two meetings with both AA and AFG chairpersons and speakers (normally the Sat night public meeting and the final Sunday morning Spiritual meeting).
- Ensure that your entire AFG committee commits to being at the Convention across the entire weekend supporting each other and working to make the event a success. This is a hands on event.
- Ask your Delegates and local GRs to become 'Champions' of the Convention. We asked our Area Three Delegate to extend a personal invite to each local GR to attend Convention. We sent a copy of the programme for the weekend to print out and share at meetings to build excitement.
- Follow the Convention Committee guidelines: Read them at each committee meeting to help stay on track. (GN-3)
- Host a Board Panel discussion. It was fun and informative and is a superb way for the wider fellowship to meet the AFG Board.
- Read the previous Convention reports to see what the overwhelming EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE is and make sure you follow it.
- Always make sure that AFG has a lectern and microphone in their meeting rooms.
- Take anonymous photos of the AFG room set up for your report.
- At the final meeting we gave away a lovely donated laminated copy of the AFG promises to all people in the room including AA members. This was very well received. We also invited people to choose a 'Social Media' photo as a memento.
- Go with the flow: It's likely that AA is going to do things differently from how you/we/AFG would do them. This is ok – it is their event after all. They may make decisions, then change them, then perhaps forget to update you or give you things to do at the last minute. Just smile, breathe and be kind to them and to yourself because God's got this all in his plan and everything is going to be ok.
- Remind yourself daily over the weekend that God's got this and that everything will be OK.

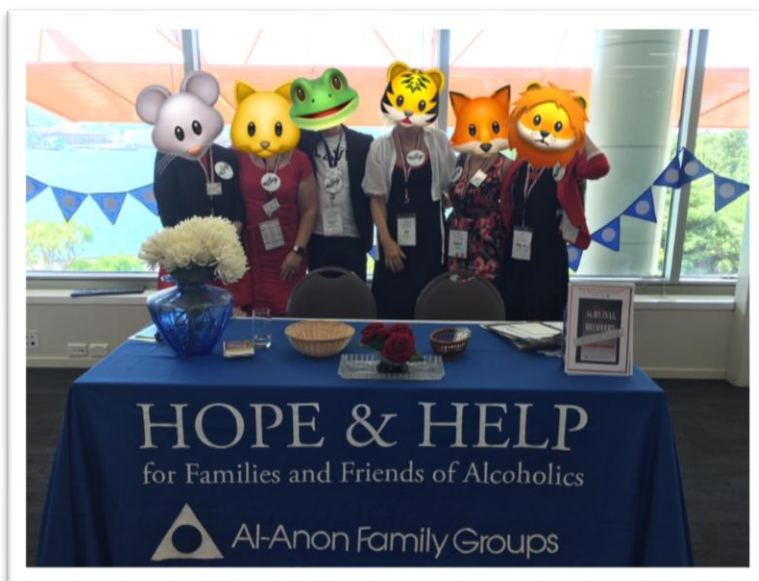
- Breathe and do the next right thing.

A final message from the Chair:

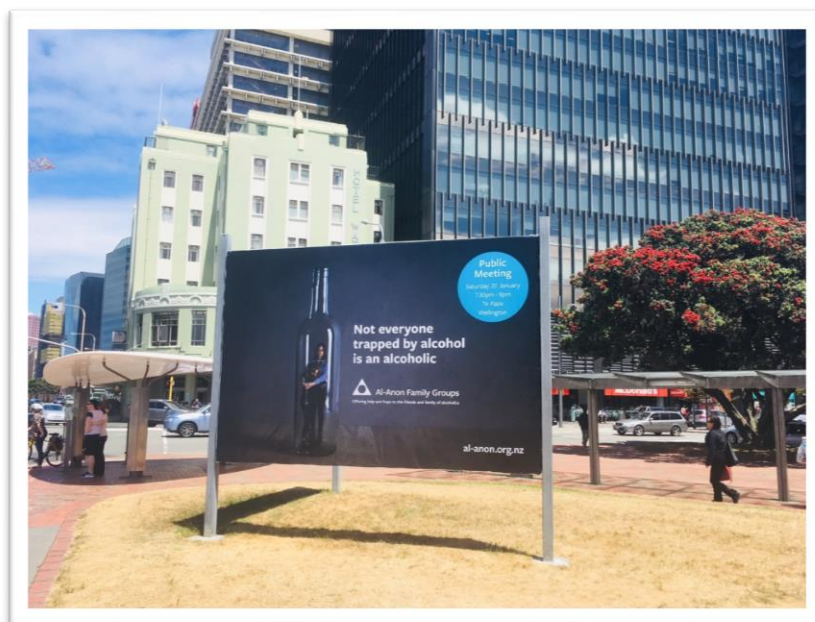
Because my Higher Power has a fantastic sense of humour this was my second time chairing the AA convention committee. I was resistant to this idea at first and only agreed to be the 'interim-chair'. That turned into accepting over time, that I was going to be the chair for the long haul. Of course now I am deeply humbled and grateful to God (and to one of his new angels) for the chance to serve our fellowship again at this level. I was able to delegate fully, I learnt a great deal more about myself and was in service situations where I was able to apply our spiritual principles and see my own growth. This is an incredible gift of this particular service role.

I'm immensely proud of the work that the committee did. They knew from the outset that my goal was to deliver an exceptional convention and they were the generous, capable, trustworthy and dedicated members that embraced and bought that goal to fruition. The memory of introducing them at the official convention mihi whakatau on the Friday afternoon brings tears to my eyes because it was their hard work and selfless contributions in service that are the reasons why Convention 2018 was such an outstanding success.

Aroha Nui
Sally-ann



The AFG Convention Committee 2018



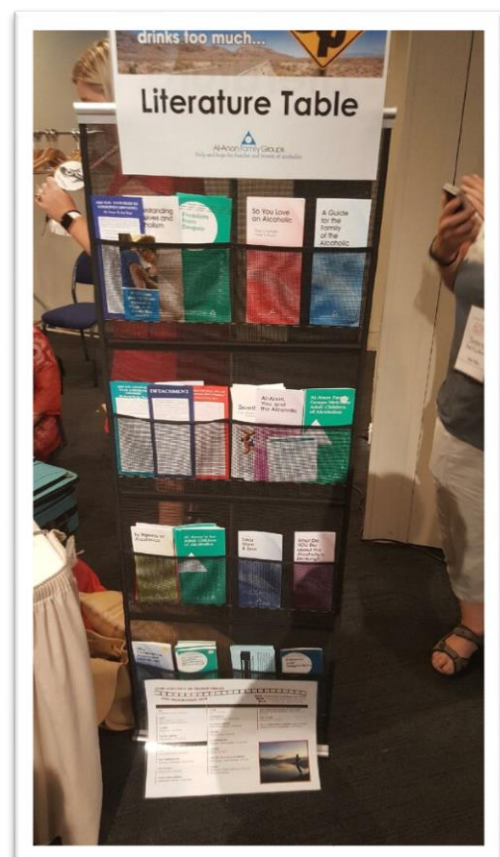
The social awareness billboard at Wellington Railway Station



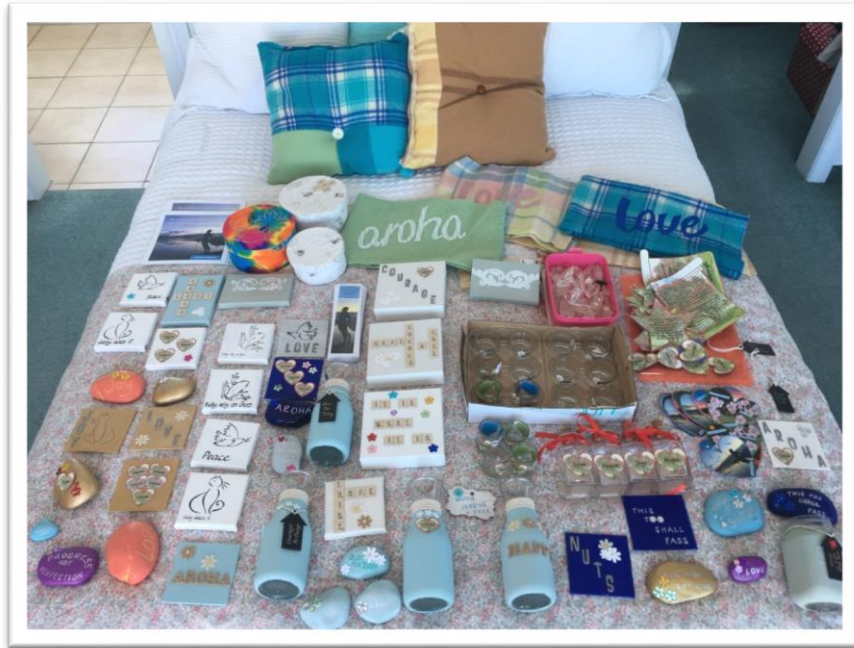
The view of the Wellington harbour from our meeting room



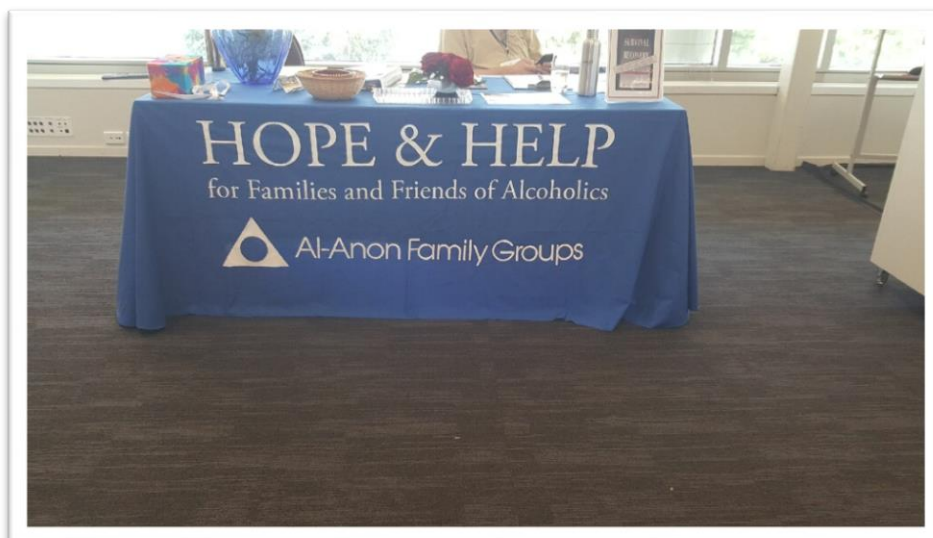
Banners in the meeting room



The AFG literature stand near the literature table



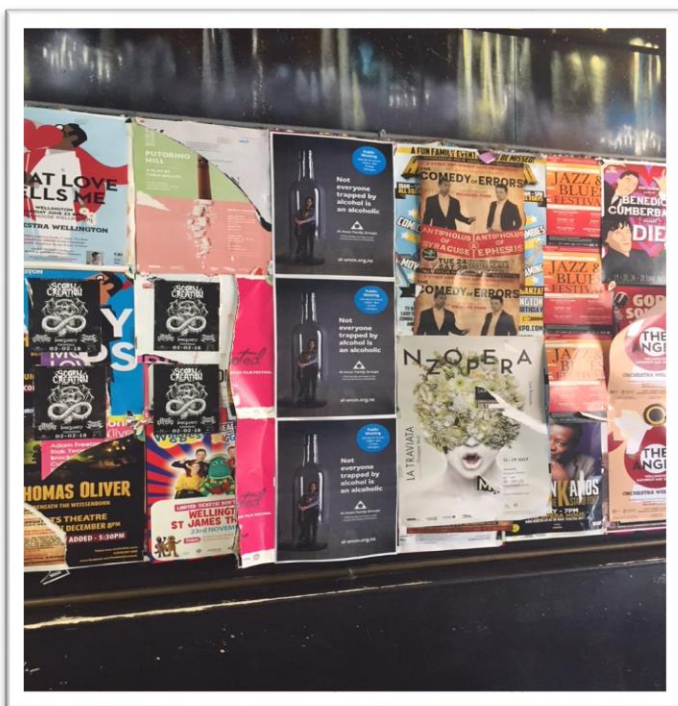
Fundraising items hand made by members



The attractive AFG tablecloth showing the logo



Social Awareness poster on a Community Notice Board



Poster in a Wellington café



Example (*not actual size*) of the Convention Bookmark we made for fundraising

Conference Members 2018: Board Members

<u>Roles</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Terms</u>
Board Chair IAGSM Delegate Convention Chair	Sally-ann M	2nd year 1st term 3rd year 1st term January 2018
Alternate Board Chair Northern Regional Board Member IAGSM Delegate	Chris H	2nd year 1st term 1st year 1st term 1st year 1st term
General Secretary	Arnold H	3rd year 1st trial
Board Treasurer Web Oversight	Rana S	1st year 1st term 3rd year 1st term
Literature Chair	Marie W (Apologies)	1st year 1st term
Budget/ Executive Chair	Sam M	1st year 1st term
Public Outreach Chair	Tracy B	1st year 1st term
Conference Chair	Julie W	1st year 1st term
Editorial Chair Southern Regional Board Member	Melda T	1st year 1st term 3rd year 1st term
Archives	Chris W	5th year

Conference Members 2018: Area Delegates

<u>Area</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Terms</u>
Area One	Lucy A	1st year 1st term
Area Two	Sarah R	3rd year 1st term
Area Three	Liz A-S	2nd year 1st term
Area Four	Rowena B (Apologies) Margaret J (Alternate Delegate Attending)	3rd year 1st term
Area Five	Patty J	1st year 1st term
Area Six	Helen P	2nd year 1st term
Area Seven	Sheryl G	2nd year 1st term
Area Eight	Jannene A	2nd year 1st term
Area Nine	Marguerite B	1st year 1st term

Conference Closing

We as NZ Al-Anon service conference members are servants of NZ Al-Anon. Our participation at this conference makes the group conscience available and effective for all of Al-Anon. We are the conference practical means by which the group conscience can speak to the fellowship. This makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your time, your commitment and work put in to make this conference a success and wish those outgoing in service a peaceful time with more joy in service to come.

It has been an honour to serve you. Go with love in fellowship and remember you are not alone in service.

May your Higher Power be with you!

Julie W
Conference Chair

Al-Anon Declaration

Let It Begin With Me

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help
let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen
always be there, and – *Let It Begin With Me*

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS ®
for families & friends of alcoholics