

Conference Summary
NZ Al-Anon Service Conference
13-16 June 2024

Practicing our Spiritual Principles



The Serenity Prayer

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

~~~

## *Te Inoi Mahurutanga*

E te **Atua** tukua mai ki a au  
te **mahurutanga**  
ki te whakaae ki ngā mea  
e kore nei e taea e au te whakarerekē,  
te **kaha**  
ki te whakarerekē i ngā mea ka taea e au,  
me te **mātauranga**  
e mōhio ai au he aha te aha

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## Board Meeting and Conference Orientation

Robyn D

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) met from 10am-4pm with Delegates invited to observe. Four Delegates observed and were invited to share their experience prior to being asked to leave as the Board went “into committee” – a process that is for Board members only. Feedback from one of the Delegates was that observing how a well chaired Board operated was thoroughly enjoyable to witness.

The 2024 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) began at 5pm with everyone joining in the Serenity Prayer and a warm welcome from the Acting Conference Chair.

We are delighted to welcome you to the 55th New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference. The theme of this year’s Conference is ‘Practicing our Spiritual Principles’. Al-Anon co-founder, Lois W. said: “The word spirituality means so much it is hard to define... I think that spirituality is living life that has a deeper meaning than the search for daily necessities. If we live spiritually in our daily life, then we find deeper fulfilment for ourselves... Every activity can have a spiritual motive!”

We choose our front cover to reflect the growth of the single bloom of a rose as it open from a bud to a full bountiful bloom. We love how it changes its colour from a pink to an apricot rose, while changing its size and shape, just as in Al-Anon Family Groups, as we grow spiritually, we change and we blossom!

Conference members were introduced to their Buddies who will support them during the Conference. There was a discussion about the Spiritual Goals of Conference and that all participants would be invited to ‘sign up’ to honour the Goals on Friday morning.

Members enjoyed a meal together in fellowship.

After dinner, everyone met for orientation with the Board Chair and Conference Chair who talked about the purpose of Conference, encouraged active participation, that all sessions would be recorded as well as scribed by volunteer members, explained the purpose of the upcoming Delegates’ meeting, plus the voting and general procedures of the Conference.

After orientation, all nine Delegates gathered for discussion and selected the following two points to bring to the Conference floor for consideration:

1. What spiritual tools do we have that assists managing different personality traits within Al-Anon, including in service committees?
2. How do we increase member knowledge of the information within our Service Manual & Handbook?



On Saturday night, the Delegates had the opportunity to visit the NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) in Pitt St, Auckland – two carloads took advantage of this opportunity to meet the Office Manager in person, as well as to pick up purchased Conference Approved Literature (CAL).



At 6:45am an optional silent meditation meeting was held, followed at 7:15am by an optional sharing meeting. This was so beneficial that members chose to hold them each morning of Conference. All members were invited to participate in these optional meetings.

## Welcome to Conference

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Robyn D

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NZ AL-ANON SERVICE CONFERENCE (NZASC)

Al-Anon's Tradition Two states *"For our group purpose there is but one authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants – they do not govern."*

NZASC makes the group conscience available and effective for all Al-Anon. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the voice of Al-Anon and the guarantee that our services shall continue to carry on under all conditions.

NZASC protects Al-Anon and Alateen against a service breakdown; it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters. This makes it the principal guarantor of Al-Anon and Alateen's harmony and survival. NZASC is primarily a service body for Al-Anon in NZ and meets annually. All NZASC members are servants of NZ Al-Anon.

2022 NZ Service Handbook (page 117)

On behalf of the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board, it is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to our New Zealand General Services Conference 2024.

## NZAGSB Chair Welcome

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Tracy B

This year's theme of "Practicing our Spiritual Principles" will be our spiritual compass, guiding us through this year's Conference as we seek to move forward within our fellowship here in New Zealand.

When I walked through the doors of my first Al-Anon meeting over 20 years ago, I could not have imagined how my life was about to change. I came to Al-Anon Family Groups to stop my him from drinking, to get him sober. Not to seek help for myself! I was living in a household where there was very little structure, a lack of trust, faith, acceptance, or any spiritual principles.

These spiritual principles of our program – our three legacies, give me a framework to live my life. A spiritual guide to help me navigate the ups and downs of being a fallible human being. To learn to love myself and others, trust, have faith, bring joy and happiness into my life no matter what else anyone is experiencing or feeling. To have a connection and relationship with my Higher Power which I had never experienced before.

Page 346 of *A Little Time for Myself – A Collection of Al-Anon Personal Experiences* reads: "The more we practice the principles of the Al-Anon program, the deeper our understanding of ourselves grows, and the more spiritual we become."

At that first meeting if you had told me then where I was going to be today, I did not possess the foresight to see what possibilities would open up to me. Let alone see myself here with you today. I realise that I am never alone. I am surrounded by people who encourage and support me. My Higher Power, a guide if you will, that knew my spiritual potential long before I came to recognise it. This program is a real gift to me.

Concept Eleven speaks to us about being involved in active service. Concept Nine speaks to leadership itself. A good leader is a person who can place principles above personalities. A person who can listen and consult widely before making a decision and understands that a plan can be brought together by anyone, anywhere. A person who understands the meaning of delegated authority as we look to Concepts Two, Three and Six. Showing us that we can work in unity for the greater good, our common welfare, as stated in Tradition One.

This week, we will share conversations that may challenge our own preconceived ideas. We will support one another to “practice these principles in all our affairs”. To keep an open mind until all perspectives have been heard. With that, we will connect with a greater wisdom to help us shape our future. A future that we will all be a part of.

As we embark on this journey of discovery over the length of this Conference, let us keep these spiritual principles in the forefront of our minds and open our hearts to all possibilities. Let us invite our collective Higher Power into the room, to guide us as we work together for the common welfare of Al-Anon Family Groups in New Zealand as trusted servants.

This year has been a year of growth for the Board. By practicing “First Things First” we have been focusing on attracting new Board Members to the table. Working on ourselves having a Board Development Day which brought up many insights and encouraged us to explore a deeper connection to the Concepts of Service and to our Higher Power. Connecting with the fellowship with our first Board Road Trip to Hamilton and working a lot more closely with the International Team at the World Service Office. We are excited about what the future holds for our fellowship in New Zealand.

My hope for this Conference is that by putting our three legacies into practice in a tangible way, we can recognise and consider these Spiritual Principles to bring them into all our discussions, presentations and even conflict or controversy, so we can work together with love, joy and understanding to make the best decisions possible for the fellowship of New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups.

## Spiritual Goals for Conference

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### 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 partnering relationship of the members of the Conference and our personal conduct. This goal supports practising the aspects of Knowledge Based Decision Making, open communication between leadership and membership, dialogue before deliberation, with all decision-makers having common access to full information and existing in a culture of trust along with 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 accepted by all in attendance who agreed to uphold them throughout Conference.

# Voting Procedure

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Voting procedures are outlined in the New Zealand Al-Anon - Alateen Service Handbook 2022 (page 120). The Board Chair explained the voting procedure at the start of Conference.

- All nine Delegates in attendance have voice and vote.
- The General Service Board vote is on a proportional basis equivalent to no more than half of the number of Area Delegates. Voting Board members are chosen by ballot. The proportional voting remains constant irrespective of numbers attending.
- For the 2024 Conference, the voting Board members were: Tracy B, Liz A, Paula B and Rana S.
- The host and any observers in attendance have voice but no vote. They may make announcements and comments related to the position they hold.
- A suggested procedure is by written ballot for members in service positions, and by show of hands for policy and principles.
- Two non-voting members approved by the meeting count the votes and report back.
- Once a vote is carried further discussion is closed at that meeting.
- All important decisions will be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by unanimity. Unanimity is met by two thirds or more of those members voting.
- Conference members were requested to read all of Warranty Three in the Al-Anon / Alateen Service Manual 2022-2025 under the Al-Anon Twelve Concepts of Service (p220-221). This gave clarity on voting procedures.

*Motion: That the NZASC approve all scribes and tech support to be present in their service roles throughout Conference*

**CARRIED**

Conference Chair will introduce new scribes at each session.

## Motions and Trials

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### NZASC 2024 Motions

- (1) Motion: That the NZASC approve all scribes and tech support to be present in their service roles throughout Conference.
- (2) Motion: That the NZAGSO 2023/2024 annual financial accounts be accepted as presented.
- (3) Motion: That the NZAGSO 2024/2025 annual budget be accepted.
- (4) Motion: That the NZASC approves for use in Public Outreach the seven images, with the ability for members to include QR codes and meeting information as required.
- (5) Motion: That Robyn D is elected Northern Regional Board Member (RBM).
- (6) Motion: Finish the trial and approve registration of electronic groups within NZAGSO.
- (7) Motion: That the functions of (1) direct online payment options for literature orders, (2) a contribution button when ordering literature and (3) a contribution button on the home page of our website be added to the NZAFG website when we have the capacity.
- (8) Motion: That the NZASC give traditional approval of the board member nominations presented for the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board.

### Trials

None. Trial from the 2023 Conference was reviewed at the 2024 Conference and became the above motion.

## Al-Anon Selected Committees

Selected Committees are created by the NZAGSB under the guidance of our Traditions and Concepts, especially Tradition Nine and Concept Nine, to take care of various elements of our fellowship. The committee members are directly responsible to the fellowship through their respective Chairs.

### Selected Committees

“A committee to unify a particular service within NZ

- Alateen Committee – arranges national Alateen initiatives.
- Conference Committee – organises NZASC.
- Convention Committee – arranges NZAFG and Alateen participation in the annual NZ AA Convention.
- Editorial Committee – edits a NZ magazine.
- Executive Budget Committee – ensures that NZAFG remains solvent and administers NZAGSO.
- Literature Committee – revises [the] *New Zealand Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook (PN-27)* and adapts WSO Guidelines and pamphlets to suit the NZAFG structure.
- Public Outreach Committee – provides knowledge and generates public goodwill.”  
(NZ Handbook 2022, page 9)

“The term for a Selected Committee member begins at the conclusion of the September NZAGSB meeting and continues until August 31 the following year.” (NZ Handbook 2022, page 96)

Each Delegate is requested to be a member of a Selected Committee.

## Presentation – NZ Al-Anon General Service Finances

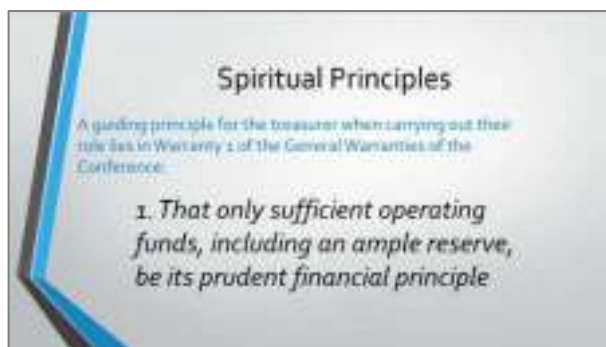
Tina McC

For detail refer to the National Treasurer’s Report as at 31 March 2024 and the 2024-2025 Budget below.

To create engagement, the Treasurer handed out bingo sheets. Instead of numbers, each sheet had words such as operational, budget, audit, ample reserve, profit, loss. Each Conference member had different sheets and the first to hear all their words said during the presentation won a prize.

Our operating funds, created by donations from the New Zealand fellowship, allows NZAGSO to provide:

- Support to our Service Arms
- Literature for sale via import from WSO
- The website, with regular updates and resources for the fellowship
- Group services and support
- NZ Al-Anon News (monthly)
- Management of the toll-free number
- Assistance for Group Registrations and Renewals
- Management of the day-to-day finances and bank accounts
- And much, much more...



Some basic reporting terms were explained before the yearly results were reported:

### Profit and Loss Statement

IN – Income

OUT – Expenses

OUTCOME – either a Surplus or a Deficit

### Balance Sheet

What we **own** – Assets

What we **owe** – Liabilities

Equity (Reserve) = Assets - Liabilities

## NZAGSO Financial Statements 2024 Summary

### *Profit and Loss*

|          | <b>FY 2024</b>    | <b>FY 2023</b>     |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Income   | \$81,849          | \$67,588           |
| Expenses | <u>\$77,696</u>   | <u>\$77,852</u>    |
| Outcome  | \$4,153 SURPLUS 😊 | \$10,265 DEFICIT 😞 |

### *Balance Sheet*

Equity \$159,582

## NZAGSO Accounts 2024 Analysis

### *Donations:*

- Increase from last year of \$3,622 – thank you
- Exceeded the budgeted total by \$7,388 (we had decreased the budget due to lower membership)

### *Literature sales:*

- Literature profit increased – exchange rate has tracked higher than literature pricing, but has been volatile. Will look to do a targeted review of literature prices soon

### *Expenses:*

- Very similar expenses to the previous year
- Expenses were less than budgeted – mainly due to Public Outreach (PO) budget not utilised

## Information we'd like you to take back to your Area

- We have a financial surplus this year! Thank you!
- NZAGSO needs continued financial support for the long-term health of the fellowship.
- We appreciate all fundraising events that Groups and Areas organise. Please send in details to NZAGSO when you run these as it's great for other groups to see!
- Please remind Areas and Groups to use correct references on donations so we can track these correctly.

Note: our Audit is still underway, so these results are not considered final until this is completed. However, we do not expect the results to materially change.

### Answers to Questions

- Yes, there is generally a decrease in donations each January.
- Correction: Area Nine has six meetings, not seven. Treasurer to check NZAGSO records and amend.
- Literature is priced by the Executive Budget Committee including the Treasurer. Concern was raised about some pricing (e.g. Public Outreach flyers are \$1 each). Upcoming pricing review will be targeted to enable some items to be more affordable.
- When making donations, please use the Group number for bank transfers.

*Motion: That the NZAGSO 2023/2024 annual financial accounts be accepted as presented.*

**CARRIED**

# Presentation – Budget 2024/2025

Tina McC

|                                | Budget<br>1/4/24-<br>31/3/25 | Budget<br>1/4/23-<br>31/3/24 | Actual<br>1/4/22-<br>31/3/23 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                  |                              |                              |                              |
| <b>Donations</b>               |                              |                              |                              |
| Donations Area One             | \$5,039                      | \$5,039                      | \$2,416                      |
| Donations Personal Area One    |                              |                              | \$266                        |
| Donations Area Two             | \$4,420                      | \$4,420                      | \$699                        |
| Donations Personal Area Two    |                              |                              | \$1,722                      |
| Donations Area Three           | \$8,928                      | \$9,547                      | \$5,526                      |
| Donations Personal Area Three  |                              |                              | \$1,240                      |
| Donation Area Four             | \$972                        | \$1,238                      | \$530                        |
| Donation Personal Area Four    |                              |                              | \$20                         |
| Donations Area Five            | \$2,740                      | \$2,343                      | \$2,560                      |
| Donations Personal Area Five   |                              |                              | \$1,019                      |
| Donations Area Six             | \$3,448                      | \$3,006                      | \$1,315                      |
| Donations Personal Area Six    |                              |                              | \$711                        |
| Donations Area Seven           | \$8,442                      | \$8,354                      | \$11,534                     |
| Donations Personal Area Seven  |                              |                              | \$3,007                      |
| Donations Area Eight           | \$8,973                      | \$8,707                      | \$13,353                     |
| Donations Personal Area Eight  |                              |                              | \$193                        |
| Donations Area Nine            | \$3,227                      | \$3,403                      | \$3,000                      |
| Donations Personal Area Nine   |                              |                              | \$920                        |
| Donations - Birthday Club      | \$800                        | \$800                        | \$777                        |
| <b>Total Donations</b>         | <b>\$46,989</b>              | <b>\$46,856</b>              | <b>\$50,806</b>              |
| <b>Other Income</b>            |                              |                              |                              |
| Interest/Dividend Received     | \$5,300                      | \$2,658                      | \$2,460                      |
| Equalised Conference Contribut | \$5,850                      | \$5,850                      | \$5,097                      |
| Convention Donation            | \$1,000                      | \$1,000                      | \$3,018                      |
| Board Road Trip Donation       |                              |                              |                              |
| Messenger Donations            |                              |                              |                              |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>      | <b>\$12,150</b>              | <b>\$9,508</b>               | <b>\$10,575</b>              |
| <b>Literature Sales</b>        |                              |                              |                              |
| Literature Sales               | \$30,514                     | \$23,267                     | \$23,923                     |
| Postage & Handling Collected   | \$2,289                      | \$1,745                      | \$2,376                      |
| <b>Total Income</b>            | <b>\$91,941</b>              | <b>\$81,377</b>              | <b>\$87,680</b>              |

|                            |                 |                 |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cost Of Sales</b>       |                 |                 |                 |
| Literature purchases       | \$17,005        | \$15,112        | \$14,199        |
| Freight Inwards (Overseas) | \$5,101         | \$4,534         | \$3,629         |
| Stock Adjustments          | \$200           | \$200           | \$156           |
| <b>Total Cost Of Sales</b> | <b>\$22,306</b> | <b>\$19,845</b> | <b>\$17,985</b> |
|                            |                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>        | <b>\$69,635</b> | <b>\$61,532</b> | <b>\$69,695</b> |

|                             | Budget<br>1/4/24-<br>31/3/25 | Budget<br>1/4/23-<br>31/3/24 | Actual<br>1/4/22-<br>31/3/23 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Expenses</b>             |                              |                              |                              |
| ACC Levy                    | \$65                         | \$65                         | \$65                         |
| Audit/Accounting Fees       | \$1,600                      | \$1,500                      | \$1,500                      |
| Archives                    |                              |                              |                              |
| Assets <\$500               | \$400                        | \$163                        | \$136                        |
| Bank Charges                | \$50                         | \$20                         | \$71                         |
| Board Development           | \$2,000                      | \$1,200                      |                              |
| Board Members Expenses      | \$5,500                      | \$2,625                      | \$3,636                      |
| NRBM Regional Expenses      | \$456                        | \$456                        |                              |
| CRBM Regional Expenses      | \$560                        | \$560                        |                              |
| SRBM Regional Expenses      | \$1,430                      | \$1,430                      |                              |
| Computer/Office Equip       | \$1,810                      | \$1,664                      | \$1,209                      |
| Website                     | \$1,000                      | \$1,000                      |                              |
| Donations WSO               | \$1,750                      | \$1,000                      | \$4,225                      |
| Accum Depreciation          | \$1,200                      | \$1,000                      | \$1,124                      |
| Conference Payments         | \$8,500                      | \$10,000                     | \$7,392                      |
| Conference Travel Delegates | \$1,480                      | \$1,480                      | \$1,453                      |
| Convention Expenses         | \$1,330                      |                              | \$146                        |
| IAGSM - Paid expenses       | \$4,000                      | \$4,000                      | \$5,461                      |
| Postage                     | \$3,000                      | \$2,500                      | \$3,289                      |
| Charities Commission Fee    | \$45                         | \$45                         | \$44                         |
| Printing & Stationery       | \$1,000                      | \$1,300                      | \$1,720                      |
| Public Outreach exp         | \$12,000                     | \$12,000                     | \$3,061                      |
| Rent & Rates                | \$16,489                     | \$14,592                     | \$12,596                     |
| Repairs & Maintenance       | \$500                        | \$500                        | \$880                        |
| Board Road Trip Expenses    | \$1,500                      | \$800                        |                              |
| Staff Amenities             | \$100                        | \$50                         | \$94                         |
| Telephone/Internet          | \$1,620                      | \$1,620                      | \$1,694                      |
| Volunteer Travel Fund       | \$1,080                      | \$1,080                      | \$1,074                      |
| Office Administration       | \$31,876                     | \$31,250                     | \$29,204                     |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>\$102,341</b>             | <b>\$93,900</b>              | <b>\$80,073</b>              |
|                             |                              |                              |                              |
| <b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>    | <b>-\$32,706</b>             | <b>-\$32,368</b>             | <b>-\$10,378</b>             |

The presentation highlighted the following points regarding **expenses**:

- Due to continued high inflation we have kept our expenses at a similar level to last year
- Board Development budget has increased to \$2,000
- Donation to WSO has increased to allow for exchange rate differences
- We have set a budget for Convention expenses which includes funds received for Alateen attendance at the next AA Convention
- We have kept our PO Budget at the same level as last year at the request of the National PO Coordinator. We hope to have some movement in that area this year
- With a larger number of Board members in the past year, we went over our Board member expense budget and have therefore reflected an increase to this for FY 2025
- We have budgeted a loss, and usually make a small profit. We currently hold approximately twice our ample reserve

...and regarding **income**:

- We still have a declining membership (based on our last group records update). Based on this, we have budgeted for a similar level of donations to last year
- The flipside of high inflation is good news – our interest on investments is generating higher income, so the budget has been increased to allow for this
- Literature sales budget has increased this year based off our higher sales from last year. Since we will be having a re-price, we may see some variation to this
- We use the spiritual principle of abundance when setting this budget, we plan for having our service roles filled, we plan for Board Road Trip events to be held, we plan to have volunteers to reimburse

#### *Answers to Questions*

- The Equalised Conference Contribution hasn't changed from \$650 in some years. The question highlighted the gaps in our service structure. The process to change the contribution amount is that the Conference committee would make a proposal to the Board. As the 2024 Conference was organised by a Task Force, no recommendation has gone to Board meeting for the upcoming financial year.
- A question was made whether Conference budgeted separately for Delegates' air travel. However, Conference travel is budgeted at \$1,480 for all types of travel to and from Conference.
- Archivist budget and expenses, no budget as no one in the role.
- The increase in Postage and Handling is due to increases in NZ post freight charges. Budget has been increased to allow for this.
- Delegates present who were on the Convention 2024 committee offered their thanks that Convention expenses now has its own budget so members can use that for expenses rather than waiting for reimbursement.

On recommendation from the Treasurer, the following motion was held over until the final day's unfinished business session to allow for possible changes to the proposed budget as Conference progressed.

*Motion: That the NZAGSO 2024/2025 annual budget be accepted.*

**CARRIED**

# Area Delegates' Reports

## Area One

Diane W

Area One covers from Oamaru south taking in Dunedin, Balclutha, Queenstown, Alexandra, Gore, Mataura, Invercargill. In total there are 10 AFG meetings, including one online meeting. Currently there are no Alateen meetings or Lone Member meetings operating.

My term as Area One Delegate commenced on the 1st January 2024.

### Highlights

I attended three of the four Southland open meetings during December 2023/January 2024. I attended the Southern Area AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation in Alexandra (1-3 March 2024). I provided an introduction at each Al-Anon meeting during the weekend, co-chaired the Public Meeting and covered the Secretary role at the Business meeting as the Area Secretary was unable to attend.

Following the Al-Anon Business Meeting held on 2nd March, a GR contact list was compiled to share with all Area One GRs. Dates for the remainder of the Business meetings for 2024 were finalised to assist with planning.

Eleven people attended the Business Meeting with five GRs representing their groups. This year I have met, or contacted by phone, all Area One GRs or stand in GRs.

### Public Outreach

I shared the 2024 PO strategy from NZAGSB at the Alexandra Area Assembly in March for the GRs to inform their Group and decide on an action plan for the year based on the four areas outlined in the Strategy.

At this stage the position of Area One Public Outreach Coordinator is vacant.

### Concerns

Members willing to take on service. Area roles that are yet to be filled.

### Final Comments

I am on a huge learning curve and have appreciated the support from the online Delegate meetings and the previous Area One Delegate.

### Updates and Comments

I was unaware that the report was for the full year, not only since I started in the role, so this update is detailed.

- The Groups in our area are: Invercargill (Monday/Wednesday/Friday nights) and Saturday morning Stepped Up (hybrid); Queenstown; Mataura; Gore; an Alexandra based online group registered with NZAGSO; Dunedin (Friday lunchtime and Sunday night).
- The Friday Dunedin Group is currently being supported by the Sunday night members.
- There are four Groups currently without a GR (Dunedin x2, Gore and Invercargill's Monday night).

#### Highlights:

- The Queenstown Group has a new GR who attended our last Assembly, supported by a previous GR.
- All Area Assembly Officer positions are filled, though not all Area Committee roles. Earlier this year our newly appointed Treasurer relocated. At the May Business Meeting we decided the Area Delegate would be a third signatory.
- The Area Delegate participates in Area Committee meetings prior to the Assembly; we're working well as a team in our respective roles.
- The Serenity Weekend continues to be held in October each year and is well supported.
- The Gore Group held a well-attended Book Study weekend in March at Edendale.
- We had two celebrations of membership – one was 40yrs and the other 50yrs in Al-Anon. A time for wonderful fellowship.
- Coming up we're holding a 70yrs celebration of Al-Anon in New Zealand (19th June organised by the Wednesday night Invercargill Group). There will be a Pot Luck dinner as well as a Bring and Buy with proceeds going to NZAGSO.

## *Updates and Comments continued*

### **Assemblies:**

- We hold four Assemblies a year and spread the venues around Area One. Attendance ranges from 11-15 members. We hold an Area business meeting, a lunch, workshops and a meeting throughout the day.

### **Public Outreach:**

- Posting anonymously on social media groups has been problematic so, without an Area Public Outreach Coordinator, I will seek help at Conference to take the 'how to' back to the Groups.
- Invercargill Wednesday and Friday night Groups pay for an advertisement once a month in the free weekly paper, distributed throughout Southland. This is a six month trial (started May 2024).
- Groups are compiling lists of counsellors to personally contact to pass on Al-Anon information.

### **Area vacancies:**

- Public Outreach Coordinator
- Alateen Coordinator
- Literature Coordinator
- Alternate Delegate

## *Answers to Questions*

- Do you have an Alternate Delegate? No, though I have spoken with Area Chair and will focus on getting a fellow member to stand.
- Any AMIAS members in Area One? I believe there is one AMIAS in Area One.

## **Area Two**

**Lauren P**

Kia ora and a warm welcome from Area Two. It is a privilege to represent my Area and to share with our Fellowship members, what we have been able to complete over the last 12 months and what we aspire to bring to our Area in the following 12 months.

Area Two boundary stretches from Timaru in South Canterbury, northward to Christchurch continuing along the coastline to Kaikōura. From Kaikōura, traversing inland to the Lewis Pass heading south along the Great Divide to Glentanner, Lake Tekapo and back to Timaru. Travel times: Christchurch to Timaru 1½ hours; Christchurch to Kaikōura 3 hours.

## *Groups*

There are seven Groups in total in Area Two, they are:

1. Kaiapoi and Opawa – Tuesday nights. Spreydon – Wednesday mornings. Bishopdale – Thursday morning. Linwood – Thursday afternoon. Christchurch AFG – Thursday evening. Timaru – Saturday mornings. There are 6 GRs. One group is sharing the responsibility until they fill the vacant role.
2. Christchurch AFG replaces Friday Night Steps; they remain at the same location and at the same time. First meeting 25th January 2024. The change of day was seen to serve two purposes, to support family members whilst their partners/loved ones attended an AA meeting in an adjoining room. Also, to start an Alateen meeting, to support younger family members.
3. The numbers attending group meetings vary greatly from overflowing to notably small – two or three attendees. Area Committee members regularly attend meetings outside our own home group, to bolster numbers and support groups that may feel they are struggling.
4. Two online Groups in the Area – Friday Night and Sunday Morning. These are registered with WSO.
5. A Book Study “group” with members attending from the same AFG. This is more a social gathering, whilst studying CAL. They made a voluntary donation to GSO which was returned. They are not registered.
6. There are no Alateen meetings at present. Three people are AMAIS approved in Canterbury but another two needed to be able to start Alateen meetings.

## *Highlights during the year*

- 228th Southern Area Assembly of Alcoholic Anonymous with Al-Anon participation (SAA) – 27th – 29th October 2023. Theme was ‘New Beginnings’. This was my first in attendance and as the newly appointed Delegate. I was tasked to liaise with the AA organising committee. Whilst I hadn’t been involved in a SAA

before, I was able to figure it out quickly with the help from my Area committee, fellow members and I had help from the Delegates Liaison – her knowledge and experience were invaluable in this situation.

- Workshop: taking the AA theme and coming up with ‘Al-Anon Welcomes Newcomers’ ever reminding ourselves we too, were newcomers. Its focus was on Steps 1, 2 and 3. I was ably assisted by fellow members. A large contingent from Area One were in attendance and a member from Hamilton – many thanks to them all, for their experience, strength, words of wisdom and support.
- Al-Anon participation was well received throughout the event, from the positive feedback we were asked to provide more speakers at scheduled open AA meetings and share one-for-one with AA.

### Public Outreach

We do not have an Area Public Outreach Coordinator at present. Individual groups organise Public Outreach amongst themselves, such as flyers in libraries, and local community groups. One group member visits The Bridge regularly, a program run by the Salvation Army who *‘provide support services to reduce the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs in people’s lives.’*

Area Two has also established a Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn page relevant to our own Area. We are currently looking at non-profit advertising on billboards and community radio stations in the Area.

### Area Assemblies

An Area Assembly takes place four times per year: January; April; July; October. These are well supported by GRs, or Alts and old stalwarts of Area Two – namely past service members, who just keep coming back. Numbers 13-14.

### Concerns

Two concerns:

- Public Outreach. *“If... Al-Anon groups do not let the public know of our presence, perhaps by announcing the time and place of meetings in local newspapers or by some other means, we block ourselves off from those in need”*. Lois W (‘Lois Remembers’ B7, page 194). How can we best approach Public Outreach whilst upholding Tradition 11, yet stepping firmly into Step 12 and Tradition 12. As an Area we have decided to step into the digital era and are working together to find our way forward.
- Group interconnection. Maintaining ongoing connections between groups that are struggling with low and dwindling numbers and those that are flourishing. As discussed earlier in this report, we’re working at it *‘One Day at a Time’*.

Overall, the year has been productive for Area Two. Positions have been filled that had otherwise been empty for quite some time. Yet some positions are ready to be vacated. As an Area Committee we are finding our feet as a cohesive unit. Whilst groups may be struggling, there has been a joint effort by committee members to visit meetings outside their home group to encourage intergroup connection. Last year’s SAA Assembly in Rangiora brought out the Al-Anon community spirit. Members were willing and able to help where and when they could. For Area Two that was the highlight for our calendar year.

### Updates and Comments

- Thank you for the privilege of being here.

### Answers to Questions

- Can you encourage Area Committee members to do Public Outreach with another member, not on their own? We don’t serve alone. Yes, great idea and already somewhat in practice (e.g. an A&D programme).
- Request: please share the contact details of member doing PO with National PO Coordinator.
- Suggestion: that the Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate do service together – e.g. Group visits. Will discuss this suggestion with the Alt.
- The “Newcomers Workshop” was created with the theme “new beginnings”. It focused on the first three steps and used questions from Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature (CAL). Worksheets were provided. It took 40mins and was followed by sharing.
- Discussion that Al-Anon members who are also members of AA can be AMIAS. Very clear in the WSO Service Manual and NZ Handbook.
- The two online Groups do not attend Area Two Assemblies. Attendees are generally from outside of Area (either elsewhere in New Zealand or overseas).

### *Answers to Questions continued*

- The two online Groups have said they have chosen to register with WSO rather than NZAGSO for “their anonymity”.
- Social media pages: are they private or public? They’re not as open as it could be; will review them.

## **Area Three**

**Renée S**

The Area covers the lower North Island south of Levin, across to the Wairarapa, down to Wellington.

### *Groups*

We now have 10 Groups (11 meetings) as Paths to Recovery disbanded in February 2024. Many Voices One Journey, Lower Hutt Strength and Hope, Principles Above Personalities (Step 11 Meditation), Courage to Change, Kapiti Wednesday, Wainuiomata Path of Hope, Plimmerton Steps by the Sea, Saturday Serenity, Rocket Recovery Speaker Meeting and Al-Anon Works Paraparaumu.

### *Alateen*

We now have six approved AMIAS members though no longer have an Area Alateen Coordinator. As noted in “Cooperation with AA” below, we held our first Alateen meeting in over eight years at the November CAA in Featherston. Rocket Recovery has decided to sponsor a monthly Alateen meeting, meeting on the first Tuesday of each month in Petone, starting April 2024.

### *Highlights*

Three of our 11 meetings are still fully online. One meeting doesn’t have a GR though is discussing a solution of having three members willing to job share. The other two GRs regularly attend our in-person-only Assemblies. Rocket Recovery Speaker Meeting is very well received by worldwide members with most Sundays seeing 70-100 participants, many coming early to enjoy the interactivity prior to the online meeting’s start. The mostly international speakers are exceedingly generous with their time, staying behind for a (non-recorded) Q&A session.

Following two spiritual “GRs Boot Camp” – which were designated for GRs, Alt GRs and aspiring GRs – the Delegate and former Delegate held a 90-minute vitality workshop on the morning of the March Assembly. All members were welcome to this fun and free event, and nine attended. There was free-writing, meditation, music and CAL reading-inspired sharing. Saturday Serenity AFG has followed the initiative set in 2023 by Al-Anon Works Paraparaumu AFG and they will be hosting the “Areas 3, 4 & 5” Serenity Weekend at Forest Lakes in Ōtaki in May 2024.

### *Public outreach*

Our Area Public Outreach Coordinator is now in her second year in the role. She has focused the Group PO Coordinators on sharing Al-Anon social media posts, encouraged attending open AA meetings, cleaned up a billboard in a high traffic area in Wellington CBD as well as participated in an online session alongside Wellington AA to health professionals.

### *Assemblies*

We continue to hold three Assemblies a year, two interim and one election. Approximately 20-30 members attend, with most Groups having a voice-and-voting member in attendance. Our last three workshops, facilitated by the host Group, were “Key to Harmony,” “Happy, Joyous & Free,” and “As We Understood.” We share colourful flyers on chat groups and in meetings to attract members to attend. A previous Delegate and I decided to hold the vitality workshop mentioned above as an additional event on the same day as our Area Assembly to make a full day of recovery. Interestingly, the day was probably our smallest attendance for a few years (between 11 and 17 members).

In November, two new members were elected to 2024-2026 roles – Chair and Literature Coordinator. Area Three has seven members in roles and five vacant roles (Area Alateen, Archivist, Institutions and two new-to-Area Three roles: Co-operating with the Professional Community (CPC) and Tech Coordinator). I’ve also not heard from anyone willing to consider the Alt Delegate role.

We realised that the host groups weren’t following the host guidelines for Assembly so we have adapted our one-pager instructions. Our first action states “read this document” 😊

## Concerns

We currently have three Groups without GRs. Kapiti Wednesday & Wainuiomata Path of Hope haven't had a GR for many months and Plimmerton Steps by the Sea is now without a GR as well. That the GR role is vital is continually raised, along with the only two requirements (to be willing to represent the Group at Assemblies and not also be a member of AA). Due to highlighting the essential nature of the role, two Groups who didn't have a GR last year now have GRs.

A key reason behind Paths to Recovery disbanding after many years was lack of members willing to serve at the Group level, and to take on the role of GR following the GR's rotation in November.

On a positive note, we were able to successfully address the "being an Alt GR when there is no GR" issue that was discussed at Conference 2023. It was shared that the NZ Handbook states: "If a group also has an Alternate GR, the GR's duties may be shared." (NZ Handbook 2022, page 42, emphasis added). As noted by a newly elected GR "put differently, there can be no Alt GR role without a GR." Following discussions, another Alt GR stepped aside as they were not prepared to fill in as GR when the GR moved out of Area.

## AA Assemblies with Al-Anon participation

We were able to fully participate with AA in Featherston in November, and held our first Alateen meeting in the Area for at least eight years. The day was delightful, and well supported by Area Three Al-Anon Area Committee and regular members.

Unfortunately there was an oversight by the Taranaki based CAA host group and the Central Areas were only invited to New Plymouth 2-3 weeks prior to the day. This meant that no Area Three members attended.

We've been invited to participate at CAA in Palmerston North in July which is the weekend before our July Assembly so it's likely a group will head there from Area Three.

## Summary

Though we have members who are new to service-beyond-the-Groups as both GRs and Area Committee members, we also have a Group "role modelling" the importance of the GR role. With only two home group members, when the GR rotated off, the Alt GR rotated on – despite the fact that both have been GRs previously. It's always sad when a Group closes its doors. However, I'm more concerned about our "lone" Groups who have members we never see outside of their weekly meeting. My focus will be to continue to encourage sponsorship, so more Area Three members experience recovery through the steps, and service sponsorship.

## Updates and Comments

- Still no Alt Delegate. Have said the requirement is having had completed a term once before as a GR, and NOT been a Delegate in past 10-15 years.
- Still concerned about the hosting of Assemblies. Very little contact from the July host group GR. (March was smooth as home group members all serving beyond the Group.)
- Concern about three of 10 groups still not having a GR and a fourth Group that has closed due to its lack of members willing to serve the Group. Will ask at July Assembly if others have a spiritual solution to this issue, especially as its likely some of those in attendance have it as their home group.
- Alateen meeting has been held all three first Tuesdays of month, each with the same one teen in attendance. Meeting nearly wasn't able to be held in June due to AMIAS illness so now have FOUR AMIAS committed to each night - two backups for the two required AMIAS. Sadly, no Area Alateen Coordinator.
- We have no 'lone members' but 4-5 members live over an hour away from an in-person Group (including Area Delegate). However, they all attend online meetings in Area Three and beyond.
- Serenity Weekend was held in May (hosted by Area 3's Saturday Serenity AFG). Successful in terms of members attendance, literature sold, donations raised for NZAGSO and financially self-supporting, refilling the ample reserve for next year. A report will be given at our July Assembly.
- Started studying The Al-Anon Family Groups Classic Edition on 10th June – online, 5pm Mondays – all welcome.
- Trying out an attractive brochure for upcoming July Assembly. Will advise if this brought more members to the day.
- PO meeting coming up on 26th June 2024 in Petone.

### *Answers to Questions*

- Comment rather than questions: Congratulations on setting up the Alateen meeting and for contacting the National Alateen Coordinator.
- Q: is the National Alateen Coordinator proud of Area Three? A: Yes!

## **Area Four**

**Di D**

Area Four stretches from Gisborne to north of Woodville, within which includes the main cities of Gisborne, Napier, and Hastings. There is one lone member, and two groups within Area Four: Hastings Al-Anon Family Group, Wednesday evenings; Hastings and Haumoana Hope Al-Anon Family Group, Friday midday, Haumoana.

### *Highlights during the year*

AA Convention was held in Area Four in January 2024. The Area Four Delegate was Convention Chair, and two Area Four members were part of the Convention Committee. Five Area Four Al-Anon members attended Convention. Area Four has not held any social events, fundraising events, workshops, or weekends in 2023-2024.

### *Public Outreach*

Area Four has a banner which is placed around Hawke's Bay. This year it has been displayed at AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation, Women's Rest, Hastings, Salvation Army foyer, Hastings.

Hastings AFG public outreach has included: Resources available and displayed at Hastings AFG meetings for members to distribute; poster with rip-off tags, Health Professional pamphlet; and Road Sign pamphlet. The girl in the bottle eFlyer has been distributed via the WhatsApp chat group with the suggestion it is shared anonymously on community Facebook pages. The Haumoana Hope AFG have produced a flyer advertising both local meetings.

Area Four is hosting an open public meeting in Waipukurau on Saturday 23rd March. The aims are to introduce Al-Anon to family and friends of AA; explore if there is an interest in starting a local Al-Anon group; and provide information to Health Professionals. The event has been promoted via delivery of flyer and pamphlets to local Health Professionals; community notice board on two local radio stations; community notice in local free newspaper; interview on local radio station and flyers provided to AA to distribute to family and friends. If there is interest in starting a local Al-Anon group, Area Four has agreed to support six beginner meetings, and then allow those attending to determine next steps after those six meetings.

### *Area Assemblies*

Area Four Assemblies have been held in August and November 2023, and March 2024. The Area committee are trialling having Assemblies on a Saturday morning or on a Wednesday evening instead of the usual Hastings AFG meeting. We get more people coming on a Wednesday evening, but it is challenging for people to understand the difference between an Assembly and a usual Hastings AFG meeting. Now that Haumoana Hope AFG has opened in February 2024, the Committee is considering how to hold Assemblies that are also accessible to those members, and the potential to host Assemblies between the two venues.

Since last Conference, members from Area Four have travelled to:

- AA Central Assembly in Palmerston North in 2023
- NZAGSB Road Trip in February 2024

### *Concerns and Solutions*

Hastings AFG has introduced:

- A Conscience Box which is placed out at each meeting; members can put any item they wish to be discussed into the box, and on the last week of each month, approximately 10 minutes is spent pulling out items and discussing them. This has been well received by members.
- As part of our opening the Chair now reads a sentence stating that we don't do Cross Talk along with an explanation of what that is.
- Following Convention, discussion about having a library so people can see what literature is available from NZAGSO.

### *Matters arising from the previous Conference*

Following the Delegate's 2023 Conference feedback there has been discussion on:

- The financial status of NZAGSO resulting in agreement at both Group and Area level to set up regular payments from Hastings AFG to Area Four and NZAGSO, and Area Four to NZAGSO.
- Appointing an AMIAS coordinator and setting up Alateen meetings (no volunteer at this point).

2023 has been a challenging year following Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 which has had a direct impact on some Area Four members, and a wider and longer impact on all in the community. Despite the challenges Area Four has continued to provide experience, strength, and hope to newcomers and members. We are excited about Haumoana Hope AFG starting up and look forward to seeing what happens following the open public meeting in Waipukurau.

#### *Updates and Comments*

- Unsure whether the 'lone member' is registered with NZAGSO. Delegate has been in touch with member.
- Haumoana Hope AFG did not complete their registration as decided to move to Taradale; Group is called Taradale Trust the Process AFG (see website).
- Discussion about members starting a new group in Gisborne though nothing yet.
- Concerns: no Alt Delegate, low numbers of Groups (only two), low Assembly attendance by members.
- No one attended the open meeting at Waipukurau apart from Al-Anon and AA organisers. Template created and will be used again for future open or pop-up meetings.

#### *Answers to Questions*

- Suggestion: use Area Three's attractive photo for Groups that don't have a CAL library or meet online. Area Three Delegate will share via chat group.
- Q: How does the 'Not everyone affected...' girls in a bottle Public Outreach e-flyer get shared anonymously? Via Facebook community pages (following guidance from National PO Coordinator). Is it for a particular group or AFG as a whole? Unsure whether the link lands on a particular page or on AFG NZ's website; it was created by Hastings PO Coordinator.
- Q: is this your final year as Delegate? Yes, I will only stand for a second term if someone stands as Alt Delegate.

## **Area Five**

**Teena H**

Area Five stretches from Levin and Woodville in the South and up to Mokau and Waiouru in the North.

At present there are six Al-Anon Family Group Meetings (two in New Plymouth, two in Whanganui, two in Palmerston North - one is an online Sharing Meeting linked to the Thursday night Palmerston North group). We have three Lone Members in our Area.

### *Highlights*

- I was voted in as Area Delegate at our combined AA Area Assembly with Al-Anon participation in Palmerston North in July. Since then we have had our November Area Five Assembly in Whanganui and look forward to our next Area Five Assembly on March 23rd in New Plymouth. Our theme is 'Shining Bright' (encouraging dressing up and raffle items) to reflect the Festival of Lights in New Plymouth over summer with 'Lightbulb Moments in Al-Anon' as our Sharing Meeting topic.
- We have started regular monthly GR meetings (online) for updates and discussion about what is happening in our Area. Discussions include Assembly planning, GR job descriptions, sharing report writing or working through any potential conflicts or celebrations, and resources for GRs to use and offer to members. We have struggled to get Committee roles filled by members and it is hoped that as GRs become more knowledgeable and confident in their roles that they will then be more prepared and confident in standing for Committee roles.
- The Area Five News was created. It is a Newsletter that has our meetings listed, different events that are being held in our Area, members' sharings and experiences at various events (e.g. radio interview, Convention, etc) and links to the NZ Al-Anon News from NZAGSO, Calendar of Events, WSO, appeals, etc. This is updated monthly (as NZAGSO information is sent out) and emailed/updated to each GR to pass on to members.

- Each meeting has hosted a fellowship event, such as a potluck dinner, lunch or supper plus two Groups meet each month for a dinner or lunch to provide fellowship.
- One Group held an end-of year Celebration which was attended by six members.
- I attended the annual AA Convention with Al-Anon participation in Havelock North, Hawke's Bay in January, the NZAGSB Road Trip in February and last weekend a Central Area AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation where I was the Co-Chair for the first time.

### *Area Five Public Outreach*

At present we do not have an Area Public Outreach Coordinator. However, we were still able to utilise a few opportunities that were presented to us:

- Radio interview - two members shared their experience, strength and hope on Access Radio 104.4 in October 2023
- Newspaper article in Whanganui Chronicle (February 2024 edition)

### *AA Convention with Al-Anon participation*

It was a wonderful event to experience. We were invited to be a part of the Committee as it was held in our Area and I took on the role of Literature and Display Officer on behalf of Area Five. It was a privilege to be a part of such a supportive and hardworking committee who were generous in their assistance. We had six members from our Area attend and each of them have written of their experience in our Area Five News. Hopefully this will encourage others to attend the next one...

### *Concerns*

- When first visiting the Groups, it was noted that information had not always been passed on so a number of solutions have included a meeting chat group, GR chat group, Committee chat group, Area Five News, checking of emails/Lone members, holding Group Inventories and possible change of GRs if needed.
- Unfortunately we do not have any Alateen Groups active at present. We also have no active AMIAS in our Area at present. We have a contact person in AA Central region and I am part of a Central Region chat group with the Delegates from Areas Three and Five.
- Lack of numbers attending Area Assemblies – make them fun! Have a theme – thanks for the suggestion last Conference, Area One Delegate!
- Not having an Alternate Delegate – hopefully this will change in the near future.

It has been a very busy, challenging at times but very rewarding eight months! Thanks to my Higher Power for the many opportunities to learn and grow in this inspiring programme!

### *Updates and Comments*

- 12 AFG members attended the Central Area Assembly (CAA) in New Plymouth in March. Some Al-Anon members expressed that they were “blown away” by the experience, and AA was very welcoming. Some AA members attended the Al-Anon meetings.

### *Answers to Questions*

- The Area Five News is written by the Area Delegate.
- Q: do lone members register with NZAGSO and attend Assemblies? Yes, lone members are registered with NZAGSO and attend in-person events when possible.
- Yes, there are members in Al-Anon who are also AA members.
- How about creating an AMIAS noticeboard to take to Assemblies (Area Five Assemblies as well as CAA)? Great idea.

## **Area Six**

**Helen P**

Area Six stretches from Whitianga, Whangamata, Waihi, Tauranga, Rotorua, Tokoroa, Hamilton.

### *Groups*

Tauranga Monday night AFG, Waihi AFG, Rotorua Geyserland AFG, Tamahere Hamilton Sunday AFG, Hamilton Central AFG, Tokoroa AFG

### *Alateen Report:*

We do not have an Alateen Group in Area Six, we currently have two AMIAS. We had one Alateen member join our sessions at the Northern AA Assembly in Hamilton.

### *2023 – 2024 Highlights*

I was fortunate to attend the AA Convention (61st Annual Convention) in January 2024 at Havelock North. It was a wonderful experience, with a full weekend of great sharings and workshops. Also it was very rewarding to spend time with others in recovery.

The Board Road Trip was held in Area Six. This was an opportunity for Al-Anon members to meet the Board, and was held on the 24 February 2024 at the Tamahere Community Centre. Included in the day's sessions: Explaining the history of the Board Road Trip, the goal (to introduce the Board and Executive Committee members). We heard personal sharings from the Board members and their recovery journey, and they also explained their roles. Also included were sessions about the NZAGSO, Finances and Public Outreach, and Alateen. We were encouraged on the importance of doing service – hearing the 2024-25 service goal which said it all, "Keep Coming Back – Service Works when you Work at it!" There was a lot of time spent planning this day, and it was a real success with good feedback from the evaluation form. Thanks to all the members who committed their time to make it happen.

### *Public Outreach*

To encourage Groups in Area Six to put into their budget Public Outreach and to plan what they can do for Public Outreach. Groups in Area were encouraged by the National Public Outreach Coordinator to post anonymously into Facebook as an easy way to get the Al-Anon message out to those who may need to hear it.

To welcome and support newcomers by giving them literature and contact details so they may decide to come back, and to inform them of the Al-Anon website, so they may access information themselves.

For Groups to be encouraged to access the resources available on the website, flyers, literature, outreach tips, images and poster, and the outreach calendar.

### *Area Assemblies*

We had an Assembly in Rotorua in October 2023, and it was great to get together as an Area, to connect and make decisions and share information. We are down to one Assembly a year due to lower numbers, and difficulty getting members to attend the Assemblies. As an Area we decided to get together once a year, and to keep up the connection by having catch-up meetings during the year.

We have planned a catch-up gathering at Tirau for the committee to get together and GRs in Area Six are welcome to attend as well. For fellowship and encouragement, and for members to have the opportunity to discuss important matters in regard to our Area, and to encourage members when they are struggling and need support.

Having the Board Road Trip was great for our Area, as it was well attended and a boost for Area Six.

### *Concerns*

What happens if a second signatory on a bank account does not attend meetings, but there is no-one to take their place, can we still have them on record and active until another member is available to take the role?

Regular members do not want to pressure the newcomers until they are ready to take on service.

When the number of members is down in a Group, it is hard to fill the service positions, or rotate service. It is hard to provide resources such as banners or literature and daily readers when limited in finances.

We do not have an Area Public Outreach Coordinator, so public outreach is down in some areas, and not as productive as it could be. The desire is there to spread the message to those who need it. In one Group, we are doing up a budget for the year, and have included public outreach, so we have the finances set aside to do more public outreach. For Groups which are low in numbers, it is hard to set aside money for public outreach.

It can be difficult to keep up the connections in the Area when we are only having one Assembly a year. It would be good to have at least two Assemblies and a catch-up mid-year.

There is a concern that we have two AMIAS in Area Six but one of the sponsors has not been attending Al-Anon for quite a while. If an AMIAS has not attended Al-Anon meetings, would it be the right thing to do, for that person to step down from their position as AMIAS. The Group concerned have had a conscience meeting to discuss what is the best decision to make in this situation.

### *Positive Outcomes*

Members are stepping up to the plate to commit to service and take on responsibilities, from the Area Committee to the Groups.

Members are thinking of ways to do public outreach and spread the message to those who need it.

We are able to have face-to-face in-person meetings, and online face-to-face meetings every week of the year with exception on public holidays over Christmas.

The Area came together to help host the Board Road Trip, and did a fantastic job, enjoyed by all.

We had a few members from the Area travel down to the AA Convention which was great.

### *Updates and Comments*

- Board Road Trip boosted morale in Area Six.
- As noted, two new Groups have started (Tokoroa and Hamilton).
- Attended the AA Northern Area Assembly in Paeroa. Originally AFG was not officially invited (via NZAGSO) but that was able to be resolved by our Office Manager.
- Waihi AFG has stepped up to be self-supporting.
- As noted, still no Area PO Coordinator nor an Area Alateen Coordinator.

### *Answers to Questions*

- How have Area Assemblies been working since last year? Only one Assembly currently. The Tirau catch up went well.
- Is the committee going back to two Assemblies (including business meetings) plus a catch up? Not yet.
- Are your Area Committee positions filled? We now have only two service positions filled, Area Delegate and Area Treasurer/Secretary roles.
- Can other committee members attend the recent GR catch up in Tirau? Yes, anyone could attend.
- Suggestion for Group – perhaps all home group members might be willing to be signatories? Not sure – will pass onto the Group to consider.
- Are you both a GR and a Delegate? Yes. Is another member willing to stand so that the Group has a GR given our service guidelines show that we step down from GR when voted in as Area Delegate? Yes.

## **Area Seven**

**Christina V**

Area Seven starts at the Balmoral edge of Dominion Rd and stretches across Auckland central, east and south. Our furthest Group south is Papakura ODAT, but in the past we have reached as far as Pukekohe.

### *Groups*

Manurewa Luncheon, Papakura ODAT, Friendship Discussion, Courage to Change Meadowbank, Remuera Personal Freedom, Tuesday Night Serenity, How Al-Anon Works, Sunday Sharing and Wednesday Steps to Recovery, Sunday Sharing Alateen, Meadowbank Courage to Be Me Alateen

### *Alateen report*

We currently have seven AMAIS; two AMIAS applicants have been approved at Area and are awaiting their Police vetting reports. Sunday Sharing Alateen Group has seen a stable increase in numbers ranging from 2-7 Alateens attending each week. Meadowbank Courage To Be Me Alateen Group has only just formed and the focus is on building awareness in the community that an Alateen meeting is available.

### *The past year/highlights*

Last November, we sadly lost our Delegate. Her passing has been felt deeply throughout our Area. One of her many contributions as Delegate was organising (with the help of a small taskforce) a Development Day in September, which brought the Area together to discuss how to increase public outreach and how to build our Alateen programme (the key issues from 2023's Conference). This was a stand-out highlight of 2023. As a result of this workshop, we now have a new Alateen Group (Meadowbank Courage To Be Me) and four new AMIAS serving in the Area. Our thriving Alateen Group on Sunday evenings is also a result of this day.

Other highlights from the last year include: 1. Securing an almost full Area Committee at our November Election Area Assembly (I was voted in as Delegate at this Assembly and we had an Alternate Delegate voted in as well); 2. Helping to coordinate two AA Northern Area Assemblies with Al-Anon and Alateen participation, which were well attended by Al-Anon members; and 3. Having a number of Groups run social events for the NZAGSO biannual appeal in the latter part of 2023.

### *Area Assemblies & Workshops*

Area Seven holds four Assemblies a year. Assemblies are well attended by GRs, Area Committee members, host group helpers and a number of members attending for the day.

### *Public outreach*

We have a new Area Seven Public Outreach (PO) coordinator who is coordinating a number of current initiatives in our Area with a focus on reaching out to professionals. Future initiatives include: inviting Group members to do one outreach activity as an act of gratitude; building our professionals list, and working more closely with AA in public outreach matters. At the Group level, there are a number of grassroots PO activities happening all the time (notices at supermarket, bookmarks in library books). Other PO activities in our Area include hosting an Al-Anon meeting at Higher Ground in December, Tuesday Night Serenity running a six-week Newcomers meeting series, and members contributing to Al-Anon and Alateen participation at AA NAAs.

### *Concerns and solutions*

Our Area faces a number of challenges. We currently have one Group which has been without a GR for some time. One solution to this was to take our last November Assembly to their location to show our support for the Group. A number of members from this Group attended, which was great to see. Another challenge we face is how to enhance our PO. In November we voted in a new PO coordinator who has a range of ideas about how to facilitate PO across our Area and to support PO within the Groups (see above). Our Area also faces an AMIAS shortage. Our first priority is to find a new Alateen Coordinator for Area Seven and to then continue to build our AMIAS numbers.

### *Matters arising from previous Conference*

Our former Delegate was taking last year's key issues, Alateen & Public Outreach, and providing opportunities for our Area to discuss them moving forward.

### *Concluding statement*

The last year has seen a number of highs and lows for our Area. We, therefore, lean on our programme, taking things *One Day At A Time* and *Keeping It Simple*, with a sprinkling of *Easy Does It*.

### *Updates and Comments*

- Acknowledged the passing of our Delegate while in her first year of service as Area Seven Delegate. Appreciate that a member immediately stood for Alternate Delegate enabling met to be supported in the Delegate role.
- Now eight AMIASs in total in Area Seven – two more are waiting on police vetting approval.
- No AMIAS Coordinator so instead voted in an AMIAS application coordinator.

### *Answers to Questions*

- Yes, happy to share the new AMIAS process guide with other Areas that was developed with the National Alateen Coordinator, reminding all Areas that they are autonomous for their own guidelines within the national framework.
- Keen to hear more of the New York South Public Outreach activity – specifically Co-operating with the Professional Community. Area Three Delegate will pass on the Area Seven's PO contact details.
- Held a business meeting at the May Area Seven Assembly to discuss the lack of GRs and temporary GRs attended, elected by their Group.
- Yes, the new AMIAS application coordinator is also responsible for reminding members of AMIAS renewal dates.

Area Eight covers the area of Auckland that is west of Dominion Rd and north as far as Cape Reinga. We have 12 Groups operating, most in-person, but a few online and/or hybrid. At present we have no Alateens in attendance and no AMIAS to support any young people.

Once again, this year I have been visiting our Groups and I am loving the sharing and warm welcomes that I have been receiving. The Group visit template sheet that was trialled last year is proving to be a useful tool again this year.

### *2023-2024 Highs and Lows*

A decision was made to cancel our King's Birthday reservation at The Friary for our intended Serenity Weekend. We need more people on our Serenity Weekend committee, and we probably also need to find a venue that is in our own Area. (The Friary is in Area Seven.)

Last Conference, our Ask it Basket question didn't make it to Conference and was overlooked. This year the question has been received and acknowledged.

Our people have been travelling around. For example, Area Eight members travelled to Hawke's Bay in January to attend the 60th AA Convention with Al-Anon participation and also to the Board Road Trip in Tamahere in February.

We experienced delays in getting new signatories teed up on our ASB bank account. But this will be rectified by early April.

### *Mobile Phone*

The Area has purchased a new and improved model of phone, so that when members of the public call in on the free phone number, there is a higher chance that they will speak to a real person. Payment for this is topped up via an automatic payment. There is no roster for the phone, each person who has it in their possession, decides when they've had enough and passes it on to somebody else. The phone travels complete with a pen and notebook along with a meeting list and a list of tips of what to say, or what not to say.

### *Assemblies*

Our GRs hold a meeting prior to the start of each Assembly. We have four Assemblies per year, two on either side of the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Of late, attendance has been low, but the days are still fun and worthwhile. I wonder if the lower attendance numbers is perhaps due to the high cost of fuel. Hence, at our last Assembly I reminded our GRs to recover any travel/petrol costs from their Group and, if this isn't possible, to let me know. Carpooling is always suggested. Our Area Chair is doing a great job preparing and chairing our Assemblies. Fundraising is always innovative and well supported and the food is always fabulous.

### *In the Pipeline*

A meeting was held recently to gauge interest and start arranging a possible Area Eight 70th Birthday event with an opportunity for the public to also attend. Our Area Public Outreach Coordinator has also identified that this could be an excellent outreach opportunity and has plans for input here.

Our PO Coordinator is making a schedule to visit each Group in our Area. This is so they can personally meet more of our members and perhaps identify who within each Group might be a good point of contact regarding outreach opportunities.

They have also been in contact with our National Public Outreach Coordinator concerning the Area Eight role in general and, in particular, digital media opportunities. This is an area that they're keen to develop and will be exciting for our Area. Our physical billboards signs have been booked in for another rotation with Auckland Council and I am still noticing our supermarket cards when I shop for groceries.

### *We're Doing Great*

Despite the fact that we are not able to hold any Alateen meetings, our members are contributing to fantastic meetings and I am impressed with the recovery and great fellowship that I see every week across our Area. I'm proud to represent Area Eight and thankful to our members and committee for their support and service.

### *Updates and Comments*

- No Alateen Groups or Area Alateen Coordinator, and all AMIASs have lapsed – but they are starting the process of applying again.
- Signatory issues have been resolved and account is working well.

### *Updates and Comments continued*

- A number of Area Eight Groups are celebrating Al-Anon's 70th birthday in New Zealand with individual Group activities.
- We are looking forward to participating and doing service together with the AAs at their annual Convention at Waitangi in January 2025 (which is, of course, in Area Eight).

### *Answers to Questions*

- Q: is there a reason why the Alt Delegate does not visit Groups with you? Have not asked her. She is providing other support for now. Will invite to visit of evening AFG meeting.
- Q: Are you willing to share the Group visit template you use with other Delegates? Yes.
- Have you considered holding an Alateen meeting at a time/place near an Al-Anon or open AA meeting? Not yet.
- What are the two Alateen "camps" within Area? One camp – process followed, then lapsed... is this insane? Second camp is keep going and trust the process.
- Where have the 9 AMIAS gone? The police vetting has lapsed.
- Mobile phone - is it for the Area for newcomers, is it connected nationally? Yes, it's connected via the national system. There is no roster for the phone. Payment is on automatic payment. Delegates to check where their phone line lands, and also interested in where calls are coming from.
- Given we don't serve alone, can you invite another member to join you on your evening Group visits – not only the Alt Delegate? Yes, good idea.
- Who are the phone line and AMIAS members accountable to? [To those they serve – i.e. the Al-Anon and Alateen members.]
- Did you know two Alateen members are driven from Area Eight to the Area Seven Alateen meetings? No, I wasn't aware.

## **Area Nine**

**Chris W**

Area Nine stretches from Haast up the west side of the southern Alps to Collingwood on the West Coast, across the top of the South Island through Murchison to north of Kaikoura. Including Marlborough, Nelson, and Tasman zones.

### *Groups*

Hokitika, Greymouth, Nelson Monday Night, Richmond Wednesday, Nelson Friday Lunchtime and Blenheim.

Loners include Golden Bay one, Motueka one, Reefton two.

### *Alateen Update*

We have three approved AMIAS but need two more to be viable to run an Alateen meeting. The member who was going to stand as Area Alateen Coordinator has declined the position. We have one Group willing to sponsor an Alateen meeting and discussion at Area level for financial support.

### *Highlights*

Our 10-12th November 2023 Assembly was held in conjunction with a Serenity Weekend – "Fun & Fellowship in Nature" at Lee Valley Guide Camp, Paretai Lodge.

Friday evening was a potluck meal and sharing meeting. The Assembly business meeting was held Saturday afternoon. The rest of the weekend was filled with sharing meetings, fun outdoor activities, and lots of great food.

This was hosted by our Richmond Group, which I was privileged to be on the organising committee of. This was my first Serenity Weekend I had attended and was the "thorn between the roses."

AA's Southern Area Assembly with Al-Anon participation will be held in Richmond on Matariki Weekend. Area Nine is supporting with suppling Friday night supper and Al-Anon sharing meetings.

### Public Outreach

Area Nine in our November 2023 Assembly nominated and voted in a new Area PO coordinator who has enthusiastically taken on the challenge of the role. They attended our recent March Assembly with a PO table (fundraising and handouts).

### Area Nine Assemblies

Area Nine's three Assemblies are split into three geographic areas, one on the West Coast, one in Blenheim and one in Nelson/Tasman area.

Our Area Assembly format trial has ended and is still running over two days, Saturday is Business and an evening dinner, with Sunday having a joint sharing meeting followed by a lunch.

We have a grocery raffle for general Area Nine funds and a "Bring N Buy" for serenity weekend funds.

Our Area has three vacant service positions.

- Alateen Coordinator,
- Alt Delegate (resigned at March Assembly),
- Area Treasurer (my old role – tasks currently shared between me and the Area Chair).

### Summary

Overall, Area Nine is functioning well and I get to Blenheim and Nelson/Tasman meets regularly, I still have to make it to the two West Coast meetings but see a lot of those members at Assemblies.

#### Updates and Comments

- No updates.

#### Answers to Questions

- No questions.

## Summary of Delegates' Meeting

Christina V

All nine Delegates met on Thursday night after the welcome and orientation. The meeting opened and closed with the Serenity Prayer.

The Delegates said that their regular (four times a year) online face-to-face meetings have been an invaluable & tangible way to get to know each other in between Conferences (and the Convention) and share spiritual solutions to challenges faced in their roles. They discussed a top highlight and a key concern within each Area, then went onto discussing the two questions or issues they'd like to bring to Conference:

1. What spiritual tools do we have that assists managing different personality traits within Al-Anon, including in service committees?
2. How do we increase member knowledge of the information within our Service Manual & Handbook?

### Area One

Highlight: Area Committee & GRs functioning well  
Concern: Four of 10 Groups without a GR; one Group fragile at present

### Area Two

Highlight: Able to fill Area service roles  
Concern: Numbers are lower in Groups; have GRs

### Area Three

Highlight: Holding Alateen meetings (monthly), six AMIAS  
Concern: Three of 10 Groups without GR, one Group closed due to lack of service willingness

### Area Four

Highlight: Convention in Hawke's Bay  
Concern: Lack of Groups in Area (only two)

### Area Five

Highlight: Delegate fellowship with all four Groups  
Concern: Area Committee of only 2.5; dominance in Groups

### Area Six

Highlight: Board Road Trip being held in Tamahere  
Concern: Bank account challenges when members leave

### Area Seven

Highlight: Growth of Alateen members & second Group  
Concern: Four of nine Groups without GRs

### Area Eight

Highlight: 70th birthday celebration events (3-4)  
Concern: All AMIAS have dropped off; no Area Alateen Coordinator

### Area Nine

Highlight: Serenity Weekend combined with Assembly  
Concern: Same as above – members think it is challenging to have business with serenity

What spiritual tools do we have that assists managing different personality traits within Al-Anon, including in service committees?

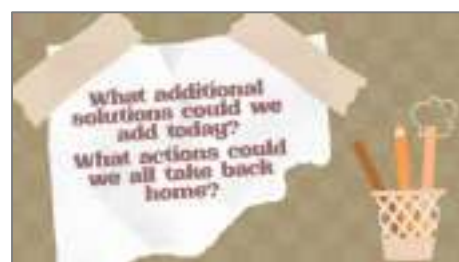
*Delegates brought the following spiritual solutions to the Conference floor:*

- 1) To combat apathy, invite members to **observe** Area Committee meetings (demystify)
- 2) To combat dominance, have regular sharing of optional reading C (“**Three obstacles to success**”)
- 3) Service sponsorship including role service sponsorship (**mentoring**)
- 4) Encourage Groups to send voice-and-voting member if no GR or GR/Alt cannot attend
- 5) Group inventory at all levels including Area
- 6) When service holders aren’t fulfilling their duties, not fixing it by someone else doing it (double headed management)
- 7) Anonymous ‘conscience box’ where items are pulled out to discuss
- 8) Using an experienced Chair when dominant members over-share in meetings; suggesting changes to format based on Service Manual
- 9) Tagging another Group (Tradition One: common welfare comes first)
- 10) Conflict resolution toolkit
- 11) Delegates are the Guardians of the Traditions - we need to study and honour them. We serve the Area so they can call on us
- 12) Use the Steps, Traditions and Concepts (which includes Warranties) in all our affairs
- 13) Studying Reaching For Personal Freedom
- 14) Being flexible with terms (e.g. Area Chair willing to commit to only a year is now 2.5 years in)
- 15) Share difficult issue scenarios with GRs



*During the Conference discussion, the following items were added:*

- Regarding the conflict resolution booklet (including warranties, concepts), having regular discussions, being willing to sit in conflict and feel uncomfortable. Standing on our legacies. How to be OK in a meeting when all is not well and is well.
- Members not fulfilling the service role and ensuring others don’t jump in to fill the void. A member could have a chat to the member or to their service sponsor. Area Chair can have a chat with members; concerns as an Area Committee can go to the Area Chair – reminder that we don’t do service alone.
- My thing is around members and service that I don’t like. People who turn up for service are great – I can disregard their personality.
- Doing a regular six month inventory: look at what I’m doing individually as well as the Group.
- Asking if members have a Service Sponsor (a member mentioned they didn’t necessarily like their service sponsor, but they listened to them).



- Regarding point (14) above, talked about we serve one day at a time. Greater understanding comes in the three year term (first year muddled, nervous; second year more confident; third year I know what I am doing, confident and then rotate off).
- The best spiritual tool of them all: the phone! Call members with experience.
- Using the guideline *Taking a Group Inventory* (G-8a & G-8b) for a service committee, not just a Group.
- Studying Al-Anon's Twelve 12 Concepts of Service
- Working alongside members to encourage them to step into roles and rotate off at the end of their term.
- Using a God Can (because I can't).
- It's my responsibility to focus on who is going to take my place – allowing time and space for thorough succession planning.
- Inviting the Delegate Liaison to our chat group to hear their experience – to be able to listen and learn to their voice and reasoning.

## How do we increase member knowledge of the information within our Service Manual & Handbook?

*Delegates brought the following spiritual solutions to the Conference floor:*

- 1) Attend a Service Manual study group (or start one!)
- 2) Delegates to share what's involved in being a GR including report writing, KBDM, Group inventory process; share previous reports
- 3) Attraction rather than promotion - "let's look in the Handbook"
- 4) Encouraging every GR and every Group to have and study the Service Manual and Handbook (one Area purchases both for each Area Committee member; each Group should purchase a Service Manual for their GR)
- 5) Wondering how to facilitate a workshop? Hold a workshop on taking workshops
- 6) Share info via chat groups
- 7) Sponsors talking about Service Manual and Handbook with their sponsees – both members go through them together.
- 8) Give new members the *Groups at Work* (P-24) after six meetings (note: the Groups at Work is a section of the Service Manual).
- 9) Chair a Group meeting using the Handbook or Service Manual (e.g. the Concept Nine leadership essay)
- 10) Do a skit on the Traditions & Concepts using the Service Manual or Handbook.

*Added suggestions were:*

- Question: talking about getting into the Service Manual, did everyone do their homework last night as requested by the Conference Chair (re: Voting procedures)? [Read all of Warranty Three in the Al-Anon / Alateen Service Manual 2022-2025 under the Al-Anon Twelve Concepts of Service (p220-221).]
- If you want to know **HOW** to increase member knowledge, use **H**onesty, **O**pen-mindedness and **W**illingness. (I got into the Service Manual after witnessing poor behaviour by some members at Area Assemblies.)
- My Service Sponsor says, "that's in the Handbook" or "that's in the Service Manual" and I have to go and search for the information! I now do the same with my sponsees.
- Comment: it was noted that the first page inside the Service Manual states "Every Al-Anon and Alateen member is encouraged to actively use and study this *Manual*."

We can take up these two topics and see what path these topics will present for our 2024/2025 goal and 2025 Conference theme.

Anecdotally, one of the Board Members (it could have been the Delegate Liaison Board Member, but we're not naming names!) challenged the Delegates to put on a skit on the Traditions or Concepts!

Delegates left us with the following challenge: **What actions could we all take back home?**



# Workshop: Practicing our Spiritual Principles

Liz A & Teena H

What are our principles?

|                 |                                |                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Anonymity       | Amends                         | Responsibility |
| Honesty         | Participation                  | Delegation     |
| Serenity        | Detachment                     | Service        |
| Wisdom          | Principles above personalities | Love           |
| Courage         | Autonomy                       | Faith          |
| Trust           | Kindness                       | Balance        |
| Open-mindedness | Higher Power                   | Tolerance      |
| Willingness     | Democracy                      | Understanding  |
| Acceptance      | Integrity                      | Hope           |
| Humility        | Accountability                 |                |

What tools do you use?

Break out groups were then created. Each group was given one or two principles to discuss the question “What tools do you use?”

## *Balance*

Service rotation. Allocate specific time each week for Delegate work. 9 squares of life. Take what you like and leave the rest. Meditation and prayer. Listening. No “I” in TEAM. “No” is a complete sentence. Looking after our own top three – mind, body, spirit. Connecting with other members. Service sponsorship.

## *Hope*

Honour Our Priorities Every day. Hands Off Pray Evolve. Hearing Other People’s Experience. How Open Perspective Expands. Steps 1, 2 & 3. “God, may I live in the programme and visit the world” (rather than the other way around)

## *Humility and Anonymity*

Knowing that my experience is not the same as someone else’s experience. A place of surrender. Leaving our outside identities outside. Being democratic in thought and action – a group of equals. Not needing to prove I’m special – we already are. Accepting the world exactly as it is.

## *Wisdom and Understanding*

Being a sponsor and a sponsee. Looking for the solution. Being open-minded. Reading CAL regularly. Being an AMIAS. Going to book studies. Praying – including the Serenity Prayer. Doing Step 10 continuously. Conscious contact with God. Meditation.

## *Open-mindedness and Willingness*

Learn & grow as “I don’t know”. The willingness to be willing. Open to HP! Turning up – to my home group, to service, to Assemblies & event, to business meetings. Being willing to admit that I am the problem. Being open to new ideas – they could be right!

## *Tolerance and Faith*

Principles above personalities. Presume goodwill. Breathe – create space (THINK). Patience. Easy does it. Have an open mind. Tradition One. Diplomacy. Courage. Acceptance. Let it begin with me. Trust in HP. Surrender. Believe. Tradition Two.

# Presentation: Membership Survey Results

Kirsten W & Rana S

The membership survey was carried out over August and September 2023. The 160 responses gives NZAGSO an estimated response rate of 28-29%. The Literature Committee lead a taskforce to analyse the results which offered all members a way forward to carry the message of help and hope regarding Al-Anon Family Groups here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This was the first survey carried out for approximately 17 years. There have been surveys carried out in New Zealand in 1991, 1995 and 2006.

## Some quick statistics

- We are aging as a fellowship (over 70% are over 50 years old compared to over 50% in 2006).
- Majority of members identify as either the partner/spouse of an alcoholic or the child of an alcoholic.
- We are predominately female, and we are also predominately NZ European (or Pākehā).

There were zero responses from Areas Four and Five, with the majority of the responses coming from the most populous Areas (Three, Seven and Eight).

Overwhelmingly members heard about Al-Anon from family and friends with the second and third largest groups being Alcoholics Anonymous then counsellors.

While half the responders hadn't tried to find help without finding Al-Anon, of those who did try to find help but did NOT find Al-Anon, the largest two areas were counsellors and doctors, suggesting these could be good places for us to share the benefits that come from Al-Anon Family Groups' free service.

Responders thought the top three areas for communicating the message of Al-Anon including Alateen to the community were:

- 1) Online presence and awareness
- 2) Health professionals and institutions
- 3) Community outreach and local presence

Other suggestions included media and advertising, cooperation with AA and other organisations, word of mouth and professional recommendations, followed by local meetings and speakers.

Once a newcomer comes to the rooms, our members think the following themes will keep them coming back:

- |                                                                                                         |                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Fellowship and Support (e.g. peer support and the warmth, strength, wisdom, and love in the groups) | (6) Sponsorship and Steps (e.g. active involvement in sponsorship and working the steps)    |
| (2) Meetings and Structure (e.g. adherence to the program's traditions and guidelines)                  | (7) Guidance and Learning (e.g. sponsorship and guidance through the 12 Steps)              |
| (3) Recovery and Program Focus (e.g. recovery in action and strong recovery sharings)                   | (8) Hope and Transformation (e.g. witnessing personal transformation and recovery)          |
| (4) Emphasis on Recovery Principles (e.g. following program principles and keeping Al-Anon pure)        | (9) Continuity and Availability (e.g. keeping meetings open and available to all)           |
| (5) Personal Connection and Follow-up (e.g. personal connections and support from members)              | (10) Engagement and Participation (e.g. attending Area Assemblies and other Al-Anon events) |

Overwhelmingly members said that attending Al-Anon has *improved* their mental health!

And nearly two-thirds said they have received counselling / treatment for the effects of alcoholism.

These two pieces of information show that Al-Anon Family Groups complement and support professional treatment.



Of those who said they'd received professional help, only 13% said the professional recommended Al-Anon. On the positive side, this is a great opportunity for 1:1 outreach.

Unsurprisingly, the majority of Al-Anon members experienced “adverse childhood experiences” such as experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect, witnessing violence in the home or community, having a family member attempt or die by suicide. The most common experience most Al-Anon members survived were:

- 1) Emotional abuse and neglect
- 2) Violence (including threats and arguments)
- 3) Household challenges (such as witnessing violence, experiencing instability, poverty or financial difficulties, homelessness, absent parent, inadequate parenting)

Familial alcoholism or alcohol abuse was fourth equal with mental health issues in parents or other family members and sexual abuse.

### Discussion

- Rana and Kirsten thanked the taskforce for their work on the survey project.
- This survey highlighted the need for an archivist for data management of past membership surveys so that valuable information isn't lost.
- Contacting counsellors is a major Public Outreach focus. Face to face 1:1 contact is preferable.
- Interesting fact to use with Public Outreach (especially Co-operating with the Professional Community) is that 99% of respondents said Al-Anon improved their mental health.
- **Action for Delegates:** Share the survey results (and presentation) with your groups and use data for PO. Don't share the last three parts of the survey results outside of Al-Anon please.
- **Action for all members:** please do not share the verbatims (Appendices) shared in the Conference Brochure.
- All Conference Members were encouraged to re-read the survey and digest the results before sharing.

### Comments and Questions

1. Comment: The stats are sobering. We need to work with Alateen to help the children overcome their childhood trauma. As a parent of a child of Alateen it has changed our lives.
2. Comment: Our Alateens could 12 step other teens into Alateen.
3. Question: Q18 “Where did you try to find help but did not find Al-Anon?”. Approximately half (82) said this question does not apply to them so either found Al-Anon OR didn't seek help earlier.
4. Comment: Alateen and Public Outreach goes hand in hand.
5. Comment: Set up the Alateen “cart” before doing Alateen Public Outreach. Alateen gives kids options.
6. Comment: Secrets in alcoholic families - I wished my mother had told me about Alateen when she went to Al-Anon.
7. Comment: Q16 “How did you hear about Al-Anon?”. Whilst ‘family and friends’ was the most common (42%), Alcoholics Anonymous was next most common at 18% so open AA meetings are an option for Public Outreach. Approx. one quarter of respondents ticked multiple boxes.

# Discussion: Board Road Trips

Sally-ann M

## Discussion

- Refer to page 200 paragraph 4 of 2022-2025 AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual – Bill W’s essay on leadership
- Two Delegates shared their experience of the February 2024 Board Road Trip – New Zealand’s first of this kind.
  - Carpooling was good.
  - Good chance for fellowship. Reconnected with a former sponsee.
  - Felt motivated after the trip – renewed my attitude towards AI-Anon.
  - Enjoyed the topics, especially Public Outreach and Alateen.
  - Meeting Board members – they’re real people and members too.
  - Yummy lunch.
  - Highlighted that the Board needs members willing to serve the New Zealand fellowship.

## Location ideas

Delegates were asked what their thoughts were for location ideas for another one:

- Online / hybrid venue.
- Area Four got quite a few mentions given its small number of Groups for solidarity.
- Area Five also got a few mentions.
- A couple of Delegates suggested alternating between the North Island and the South Island. (All North Island Areas other than Area Three attended the Area Six located Board Road Trip; no member from the South Island Areas attended).
- Area Two got a shout out.
- Area Eight after the Board has been around the country!



Enabling observers to attend Board meetings via an online platform was suggested as another way to further demystify the Board.

## Questions

- The Board Road Trip logistics were organised by a board member who created a taskforce to help organise the event. Area 6 (where it was held) organised the venue and hosting. The taskforce informed Board of what to present on, communications etc.
- The 2024/25 budget for the Board Road Trip is \$2000. The cost of the Feb 2024 Road Trip was \$1450.
- Currently we anticipate holding a Board Road Trip annually.

## Resources

- Time and consideration of dates of other meetings
- Money
- Board and Exec Committee member capacity
- On ground support
- Self-care
- Collaboration with Delegates

*The Board thanked the 2024 Conference members for their input and participation in this discussion and will take it into account when making plans for future planning of Board Road Trips.*

## Workshop: Keep Coming Back – Service works when you work at it!

Renée S and Di D

This workshop, the theme of which was the 2023/24 service goal decided at Conference 2023, opened and closed with prayer – the prayer from Just for Today bookmark and then closing with te inoi mahurutanga (the serenity prayer in te reo Māori).

The goals of the workshop were to offer an opportunity for Conference members to reflect on how Al-Anon service has enhanced their own personal recovery and to have a service-based workshop for members to take back to their Area and Groups.



The co-facilitators gave personal examples of how service roles have been pivotal to recovery occurring in their own lives – outside the rooms as well as inside.

Some recovery wins from *When I got busy, I got better* (P-78) were shared then a handout was given to each member – including the host, scribe and tech support – for writing while music was softly playing. Members took the handout with them to smaller breakout groups where they discussed and shared answers and experiences with each other.

Wins included:

- I can show my gratitude
- Gave me real fellowship
- Taught me to trust others
- Gave me a sense of purpose
- I learned to say YES
- I learned to say NO
- Opened my mind
- Increased my self esteem
- Gave me courage
- Released me from perfectionism
- Gave me a closer conscious connection with my HP

Back in the main meeting room, Conference members shared wins they'd had from doing service at the Group level and beyond. Wins that other Conference members talked about included:

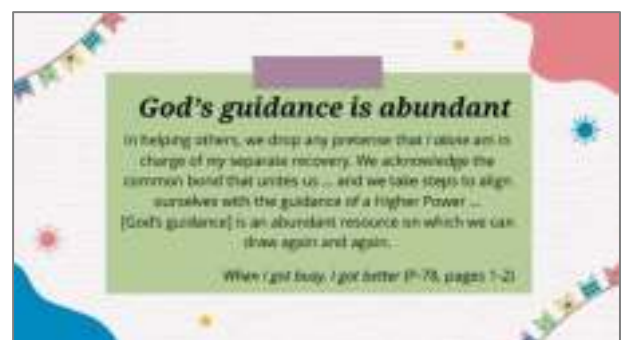
- Confidence
- GR = wider fellowship
- Sense of humour
- Self esteem
- Self-worth
- Interest in learning new skills
- Grace
- Fellowship skills
- Staying in my lane
- Communication skills
- Public speaking
- Patience
- I am enough
- Courage
- Asking for help
- Human
- Equality
- Love and tolerance
- Conflict
- Closer contact with God
- Value – I have it

When looking at the 24/25 goal wording, the facilitators came up with a mnemonic for WORKS: Willing, Open, Recovery-guided, Knowledge = Spiritual solutions.

Experience shared include...

### Willing

to be inconvenienced – to make a commitment – to be uncomfortable – to put in time – to change – to accept others' views – to admit when I'm wrong – to look at my own attitudes – to not fix problems that aren't mine – to be of service to others – to know when enough is enough – to let go of (the illusion of!) control



## Open

to asking for help – to being wrong – to seeking a solution – to being teachable – to being vulnerable – to spiritual solutions – to being shown I'm wrong – to other people's opinions – to acceptance – to learn – to have fun – to friendship – to being loved – to my HP's plan for my service – to God's grace & however it shows up

## Recovery guided

to accessing a Higher Power – to understanding my character defects – to being sponsored – to being sponsorable – to being guided by God – to being open to working the steps repeatedly – to understanding all 36 principles – to communicating regularly with my sponsor – to taking guidance from sponsor – to using & knowing the slogans – to going to meetings – to practising the general warranties in all my affairs – to daily readings and gratitude lists – to being a sponsor (it's a privilege!)

## Knowledge

by studying the Service Manual, NZ Handbook & guidelines – by using service sponsorship – by studying the Traditions and Concepts – by listening to the experience of others – by learning the history of 12 step recovery – in knowing that "this too shall pass" – by remembering I don't have to reinvent the wheel – by learning what has gone before in service and other Conferences, etc – in accepting life on life's terms – in knowing that after the 'but' comes the bullsh\*t!

## = Spiritual solutions

being guided by the Steps, Traditions & Concepts – presuming goodwill – honouring my commitments – remembering that God is in "all this" too – praying – meditating – going to a meeting (even when I don't want to) – doing the work and trusting the process – living all three legacies – to using my sponsor – to trusting in my HP.

The workshop also discussed any fears (False Evidence Appearing Real) that attempted to derail their service, and actions to overcome fears – in themselves and in their fellow members.

## Some actions members had used to overcome fears were:

- Writing a fear inventory
- Member encouragement and example
- Knowing that I'm enough
- Fellowship and support
- Doing the mahi, trust the process
- 12 Step the problem
- Knowing that it's one day at a time
- Ring my sponsor
- Trust in my recovery
- Being myself
- Sharing
- Pray, pray, pray
- Admit that I'm scared
- Courage in serenity prayer - I'm allowed to be scared
- Don't sweat the small stuff
- Doing it anyway
- Visualise putting the person in God's hand

## Actions that members were taking away with them included:

- Don't let age define me
- Visualise role
- Study the Al-Anon Family Groups Classic Edition
- Sign up to receive and read "In the Loop"
- Fulfil my PO commitments for our Area
- Use the phone more
- Continue to role model
- Help others to be of service:
- Be authentic and let my light shine
- Follow wisdom of those who were before me, using words and slogans they used when I'm feeling fearful
- Be a member, NOT my role (be an example)
- Do the next right thing
- Ask someone from group to join PO
- Shoulder tap someone for a service role
- Talk to AMIAS rep to help
- Share my experience, strength and hope



# Workshop: Public Outreach

Rana S and Chris W

The workshop started with the challenge “Public Outreach is hard – or is it?” and then Conference got to take part in a lesson of stepping out of our comfort zone and trying something new that we might think was hard. It was also an example of how it does not need to be perfect, just need to be willing to try.

With guidance, Conference members each **drew** the Al-Anon Family Groups and Alcoholics Anonymous co-founders – Lois and Anne, Bill and Dr Bob!

*“What is the most important role in the room?” Answer: ‘Member’!*

*We do Public Outreach for others and for ourselves.*

HOW? We do it by being **H**onest, **O**pen and **W**illing!

Short recap on the Public Outreach Strategy that was set in December 2023 (based on feedback from NZASC 2023), refer the National Public Outreach Report for details.

As shown in the 2023 membership survey results:

- Our membership is aging,
- Attending Al-Anon improves our mental health,
- Many members also see counsellors,
- Many counsellors are not recommending Al-Anon Family Groups.



What we can do

- Post Conference approved images anonymously on existing social media channels (images available on the NZ Al-Anon website). You can use any Facebook community group pages that allow its members to post anonymously (for details on how to do this contact your Area Public Outreach Co-ordinator). This is a very quick form of Public Outreach - it takes a few minutes to potentially reach hundreds of people. It was confirmed that you cannot ‘like’ a social media post anonymously. However, ‘liking’ or on-sharing an Al-Anon social media post doesn’t mean you are in Al-Anon/Alateen just as much as liking or on-sharing an SPCA post does not mean you have a pet, or are yourself a puppy!
- Create a list of local counselling services. Approach these by phone and in person (not email) and speak to them about Al-Anon/Alateen. “I’d just like to talk to you about what we do...” Or “I’m volunteering for NZ’s Al-Anon Family Groups” means we can keep our membership anonymous. Do it as directly as you can. Approach personally one by one - much more effective than sending emails to a group of people or businesses which may get ignored or treated as spam.
- Provide free copies of ‘Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism’ to counselling waiting rooms, cafés, other medical waiting rooms (where the landlord allows it).

## New Public Outreach imagery

We have been using two images for Public Outreach for a long time and suggested it was time for a refresh and time for some choice to add to the existing images.

Conference members were thrilled to see the new images, in both landscape and portrait mode. The images below featuring a green bottle are from the WSO website with their approval to amend for NZ. The Alateen images below are also from WSO and available to use – we have not had Alateen images for many years.

The following images were approved by Conference 2024 as new imagery for New Zealand members to use.

Image 1: Single Bottle Landscape



Image 2: Single Bottle Portrait

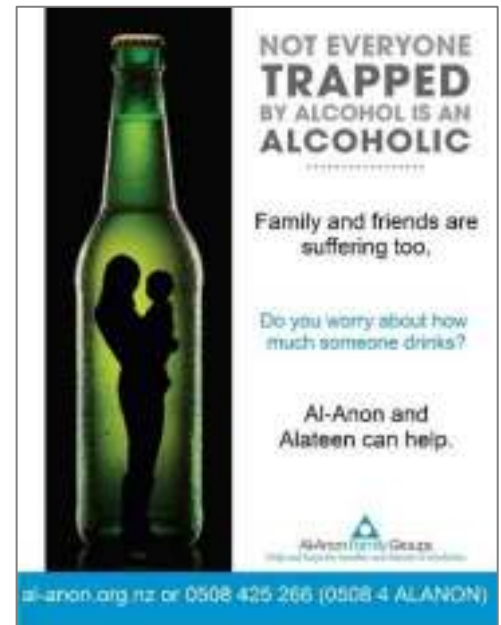
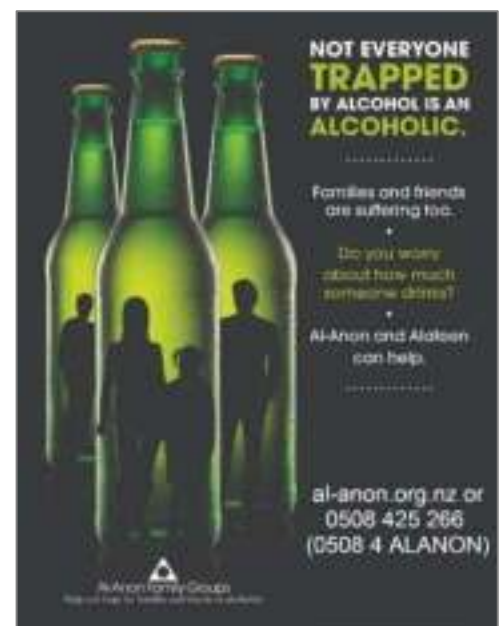


Image 3: Three Bottle Landscape



Image 4: Three Bottle Portrait



Images 5: Alateen Young Girl Landscape



Image 6: Alateen Young Girl Portrait



Image 7: Seated Woman Landscape



Discussion points were:

- Ensuring the images were A4 portrait and landscape so images can then be upscaled to A3 and downscaled to A5.
- Recommend the phone number is consistent across the images, whether upper case or lower case. A hyphen in 'Al-Anon' was suggested, however no hyphen was decided upon as could be confusing for some when typing number into their phone.
- The actual numbers need to be added under the letters (0508 425 266).
- Images will be high resolution.
- The approved images will be free to download off the Al-Anon NZ website, Public Outreach section.
- Approval has been given from WSO and other service structures to use the NZ-adapted images.
- The green bottle images are dark and if they are used outside or on buildings, they may be too dark to read them. The current girls in the bottle image is hard to see on community noticeboards. Yes, the new images are dark – however, the writing is on a white background (unlike the people in the bottle image).

- There may be still more images brought to the 2025 Conference. Current images will still be available for use to allow members to choose what works for them.
- While making changes, it was suggested that we get the current road sign images on our website corrected to “Help and hope for families and friends of **alcoholics**” (replacing “problem drinkers”). This was not agreed to as the image as is has already been approved by Conference (previously).

The proposed motion was slightly modified during the discussion, and passed as below.

*Motion: That the NZASC approves for use in Public Outreach the seven images, with the ability for members to include QR codes and meeting information as required.*

**CARRIED**

The seven new images with amendments will be uploaded to the New Zealand Al-Anon website.

*Discussion around Public Outreach activities included:*

- On the campaign to contact local counsellors, when was that included in the strategy? It was a part of original strategy from 2023. The strategy will not change all the time.
- Regarding what to say when approaching professionals 1:1, whilst there is no script per se, start by asking “Have you heard about Al-Anon Family Groups?” Use some of the wording on the WSO website, “professionals” section: [al-anon.org/professionals](http://al-anon.org/professionals). There is a free fact sheet for professionals available on the same part of the WSO website (S-37).
- Always follow up with a second phone call or visit, and maybe a copy of “Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism” which is specifically Public Outreach focused.
- Area Two has created its own page on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. **It was noted that approved CAL images can be posted, but quotes from Al-Anon literature cannot be posted as it breaches copyright.** There are some specific articles from *The Forum* that Al-Anon New Zealand can post on its “service arm website or newsletter” as NZAGSO is a service arm of the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups **if** NZAGSO states on the website or in the newsletter that this article is permitted. We must use the following credit line: “Reprinted with permission of The Forum, Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA.”
- The WSO Service Manual has a full section on social media (see page 127 onwards). It states WSO can do social media and that so can Areas. However, the Areas it refers to are within the USA and Canada. It also notes that other countries GSOs can create social media pages. Groups cannot do it but Areas potentially could, if that was agreed at Conference. Future national plans are to investigate whether there is value in New Zealand creating its own Social Media presence.
- The WSO Service Manual states that “Al-Anon and Alateen members can also share postings from the WSO social media pages, being certain when doing so that they do not add personal information to the share that would reveal their membership in the program.” See page 44 under Public Outreach in the Community. However, if you can post anonymously, we would encourage you to do so.
- If you are confused about attraction vs promotion, the WSO Service Manual has a great definition of what it is, and what it is not. See pages 119-120.
- A magazine approached a member who was willing to anonymously share their experience, strength, and hope. They were careful to state to the journalist that Al-Anon is **not** about giving advice and that they did not speak for Al-Anon Family Groups. They said words along the lines of “This is my personal experience. All I can give you is my experience, strength, and hope regarding what works for me and what Al-Anon provides me”.

## Presentation: Alateen – past, present, future

Paula B and Christina V

The presentation started with the introduction of a parent and their two children, both of whom attend Alateen. One child read the Alateen introduction and the other read the Just for Today Alateen card.

The facilitator shared on her experience as a parent whose children attended Alateen, as well telling the Conference what happens in Alateen meetings from the viewpoint of an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS). As with Al-Anon meetings, Alateen members don’t speak about alcoholism and the alcoholic in the meetings. The children and young adults run the meetings themselves.

An adult Conference member shared how attending Alateen meetings changed her life.

Currently there are **three** active Alateen groups in New Zealand. Area Seven had a significant shift following a “development day” in late 2023. At this day, previous Alateens shared their story and parents of potential Alateens listened. From that, a number of Al-Anon parents ‘prescribed’ six Alateen meetings to their children who started to attend the Sunday meeting, and a new Thursday meeting was created.

*We were reminded that, in the case of Alateen Groups, we need the cart before the horse.*

Before doing anything else, do these things:

- (a) AMIAS approvals
- (b) An Area Alateen Coordinator\*
- (c) Al-Anon Groups willing to sponsor an Alateen meeting and cover rent for Alateen meeting venue
- (d) Finding a venue (preferably at same location as the sponsor group’s Al-Anon meeting)
- (e) Registering Alateen group with NZAGSO
- (f) Publicising the Alateen group across the Area – in reach to Al-Anon members who are parents
- (g) Public Outreach – tell the community
- (h) Keeping in touch with the National Alateen Coordinator

\*Area Seven has come up with the innovative approach of creating a new role: “AMIAS application coordinator” as they have struggled to get an AMIAS that has capacity to stand as Area Alateen Coordinator (you need to be an active AMIAS to be an Area Alateen Coordinator – see NZ Handbook 2022, page 70).

*After your Area has completed points (a) to (h) above, your Area’s cart is now ready for the horses (ie the Alateens)*



Information on starting and supporting an Alateen group was shared from *A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups* (P-29).

It was shared that the Sunday night Alateen meeting have, in the past six months, held a potluck picnic and another picnic. Following their meeting, they join the Al-Anon Group to close together. That meeting chooses to close their Alateen meeting by sharing what good has happened that week, what not so good thing has happened that week and what we’re grateful for. (It’s optional about whether each Alateen member shares of course.)

There are Alateen newcomer packs. Alateen safety guidelines - AMIASs need to read the Alateen safety guidelines to ensure the Alateens and the Alateen Sponsors are safe.

Essentially set up the meetings, do the publicity footwork, and wait for the Alateens to come.

The facilitators invited us to brainstorm in small groups on one of two questions:

- For Areas without Alateen Groups, what does your Area need to do to build Alateen?
- For Areas with Alateen Groups already, what work still needs doing?

Alateen related actions that Conference members committed to doing included:

- Attract more AMIAS by sharing my experience as a parent and get others to be AMIASs
- Get an Area Alateen Coordinator
- Get loads of police check forms and hand out to members to get the ball rolling
- Setting up an Alateen Group next to an Al-Anon and AA meeting

- Holding direct conversations with AA and AI-Anon members about the need for Alateen. Will bring up in business meeting at upcoming Area Assembly and will take forms so members can see what to do
- Public Outreach to take Alateen message out
- Connecting with National Alateen Coordinator about increasing the number of AMIAS in my Area
- Challenge more members to be AMIAS and for someone to step up to be Area Alateen Coordinator
- Support the coordinator in getting more interest in AMIAS and get Public Outreach Coordinator on this. Going home to find another two AMIASs
- Shoulder tap someone to stand for the Area Alateen Coordinator role
- Get message out there about Alateen
- Share how an AI-Anon group can sponsor an Alateen meeting, get information out there
- Purchase Just for Today Alateen cards and give them to all our members
- Start another meeting in Area Seven
- Continue to support new interim position process
- Email Area Seven's Alateen guidelines to the other Delegates (Editor's note: done before she left Conference!)

### Alateen questions / discussion:

Q: can we become an AMIAS to be a **backup**, not being a regularly scheduled AMIAS? Yes, that is possible to be a backup AMIAS, not a regularly scheduled AMIAS.

Q: how old can a child be to benefit from Alateen? We've seen children as young as 8 years old develop and grow in Alateen. Essentially, if they're old enough to read, they're old enough to participate.

Reminder: to be an AMIAS you have to be an active member – regularly attending meetings, reading literature etc. Ratification from your home group is almost more important than the police check – that the member standing or renewing their AMIAS qualification is actively working the program and a “well” AI-Anoner!

## Discussion: RBM process

Rana S

While the members of the Regional Board Members (RBM) nominating committee were out discussing nominations that had come through for the Northern RBM position, an experienced Board member shared with the rest of the Conference the process of RBM nominations. They also shared why those specific Conference members were serving on the 2024 RBM nominating committee.

The member took Conference through the diagram on page 4 of the 2022 NZ Handbook and also took Conference to page 105 which talks about the role itself.

Nominations were only sent through for Northern Region. Unfortunately the fellowship has not nominated anyone from either the Central or Southern Regions.

The RBM nominating committee came back to the whole of Conference with the following motion:

*Motion: That Robyn D is elected Northern Regional Board Member (RBM).*

**CARRIED**

## Discussion: NZAGSO Electronic Meeting Trial

Kirsten W & Tina McC

The 2023 Conference motion was to “extend the trial for NZAGSO to accept registrations of permanent electronic groups for a further year.” This one year extended trial period has come to an end. There has been no dedicated resource at the Board to continue the work required from last year's KBDM paper, so no further progress has been made.

There are 12 New Zealand based Groups registered with NZAGSO which provide either part or fully electronic component (i.e. hybrid of some sort or fully online respectively).

- Five Groups are registered with NZAGSO as an electronic meeting:
  - Area Three has three (two fully electronic Groups and one Group holds a fully electronic meeting and a separate fully in-person meeting),
  - Area Seven has one, and
  - Area Eight has one.
- An additional seven Groups offer both in-person and electronic access in the same meeting:
  - Area One has one,
  - Area Three has one, and
  - Area Eight has five.

There are currently five electronic Groups on the NZ AI-Anon website registered with WSO and **therefore they are not part of the New Zealand structure**. There are no longer any “temporary” electronic meetings listed on the NZ website.

Since Conference 2023:

- There has been an increase in electronic / partial electronic meetings registered in NZ.
- No NZ-registered electronic meetings have closed in the last year.
- A new group registration form has been issued for electronic meetings and the current group registration form has been enhanced to allow for details of an electronic component of a meeting.
- NZAFG needs to let WSO know if we start to permanently register electronic meetings in NZ.

The facilitators were keen to hear from Delegates whether the GRs of electronic meetings attend Area Assemblies.

- Area Three: one electronic Group doesn’t have a GR although some members attend Assemblies, sometimes with the Group’s vote. The other electronic Group has had local GRs since its inception which attend Assemblies. The two other ‘electronic’ Groups (one is hybrid; one is two meetings – one in-person and one electronic) both have local GRs who attend and vote at Assemblies.
- Area Eight: one Group that is registered is an electronic meeting, many live within Area Eight; they attend Assemblies.

### *Questions and Discussion*

- If we stop the trial, will the options be for the Group to either stop meeting or become a WSO registered Group? Yes, or we vote to finish the trial and electronic Groups can register in New Zealand.
- We’re concerned about Groups without a GR being active in an Area; they’re alone, they miss out on communications, and we don’t hear from them. Where are they registered? Or are they unregistered?
- If registered with WSO, they don’t have voice and vote in the New Zealand structure therefore cannot send a GR to Area Assemblies.
- Area One: there’s one Group registered with WSO who has a GR that comes to Area Assemblies. Comment: Groups that have “moved offshore” are no longer part of our New Zealand structure and therefore do not have vote at NZ Area Assemblies.
- Area Five: we have an electronic meeting that is attached to another Group – registered as a multiple meeting Group. Comment: There’s an NZAGSO form for Groups that have multiple meetings, regardless of where they meet (in-person or electronic).
- Comment: some electronic platforms have ways to exclude internationals attending an electronic meeting if the Group chooses to do so (Tradition Four).
- Comment: in my Area, all members are invited to Area Assemblies. The GRs of all Groups registered with NZAGSO have voting privileges regardless of whether the Group is fully electronic, fully in-person or a hybrid. The electronic Group without a GR financially contributes within the New Zealand structure as they are part of Area Three.
- Comment: a good amount of financial donations go to NZAGSO from New Zealand based electronic meetings.
- Comment: all we need is a guideline to state Groups need to register in WSO or NZAGSO to get their details on the relevant website.

- The Board could potentially touch base with WSO to ask if they're continuing to register electronic meetings from other service structures.
- Comment: those who want to be part of the New Zealand structure need only bring it to their Group's business meeting and, if the conscience is to 'move' to New Zealand, simply deregister with WSO and register with NZ.
- Comment: we need to share why it's key to be in New Zealand rather than in a global Area. Staying connected locally makes sense.
- Comment: there's no real difference between electronic meetings and in-person meetings – it's just the way we attend, and the Group's conscience using their autonomy about what is acceptable behaviour in the meeting, and what is not. The hug is the main difference (we even sit down and have a cup of tea at home too). Our disease likes to over complicate things. So what we're trying to decide is how New Zealand wants to move forward.
- If the third option (finish the trial and approve registration of electronic groups within NZAGSO) is an option for Conference to decide, let's put that to the floor.
- Comment: a reminder that Areas – like Groups – are autonomous regarding how they run their business meetings (e.g. holding fully electronic or hybrid Assemblies).
- Question: do we know what WSO would like to know about electronic Groups in other countries? It seemed that we inform WSO that electronic Groups will now be registered under our structure. However, the IAGSM Delegates will commit to finding this out and bringing the information back.

Possible options were discussed. The following motion was the motion Conference voted on.

*Motion: Finish the trial and approve registration of electronic groups within NZAGSO.*  
**CARRIED**

## Presentation: Ask-it Basket Session

Sally-ann M & Chris W

The Ask it basket question, asked of Conference by Area Eight, was:

When will the following functions be added to the NZAFG website?

- 1) direct online payment options for literature orders
- 2) a contribution button when ordering literature
- 3) a 'Make a Contribution' button on the Home page

The facilitators reminded us to that our goal was to answer the question we have been asked, using our spiritual principles as our guide.

In Al-Anon we learn that:

- We keep an open mind,
- To keep Al-Anon's gifts we share them with others,
- Leading another person from despair to hope and love brings comfort to both the giver **and** the receiver.

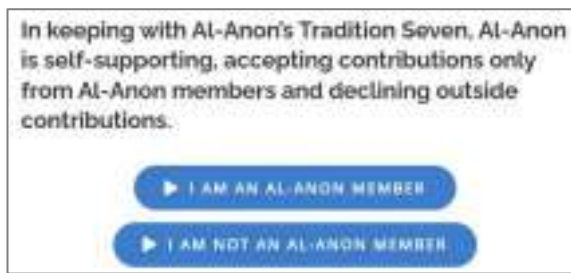
The facilitators researched what WSO and other GSOs were doing in this area. WSO already has a 'contribution' function on the website, as do South Africa, UK & Eire, Australia and other countries. The tech support took us on a quick trip around the world to:

South Africa: <https://www.alanon.org.za/contributions/> (via its homepage)

UK & Eire: <https://al-anonuk.org.uk/members-area/donations/> (via the homepage then Members' Area)

We tried to go to Australia ([www.al-anon.org.au](http://www.al-anon.org.au)) but apparently our passports weren't valid as we couldn't get in! However, we heard that on the member resources page there is a financial section that offered different ways for members to donate.





The gold standard method was on WSO's website <https://al-anon.org/contributions/> (via the homepage, members dropdown menu).

It gracefully highlights our focus on being fully self-supporting financially. Our parent Conference, the World Service Conference (WSC), informs our World Service Office (WSO)

which has paid employees.

The point of this trip around the world was to give Conference members the experience of seeing what other service areas do already – we all had more information after that trip than we had 20 minutes ago.



Payment Gateway technology was briefly explained to allow the Conference to make an informed decision on the proposed motion. They pointed out that a payment gateway is a technology platform that acts as an intermediary in electronic financial transactions. It enables organisations to accept, process, and manage various payment methods – such as credit cards, debit cards, and digital wallets – in a secure, efficient manner.

The reason we look to other structures is that we are part of a worldwide fellowship and that, although New Zealand is

autonomous, WSO is the senior structure. (The Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter states that the “World Service Conference is now the senior conference.” See the Service Manual.)

Make the decision today is going to be based on Concept Twelve: Warranty Three (“that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible by unanimity”). To facilitate discussion, the motion was put forward that “these will be added to the NZAFG website (date).”

### Questions and Discussion

- Comment: love the idea; concerned of the capacity of the Board and that we only have a part-time paid staff member. Highlights a vacancy: no one is stepping into the role of website coordinator.
- Suggestion: give this it to Exec/Budget committee to explore. Comment: that two members are currently on a task force for direct online payment process for literature orders.
- Tweaked wordings for the motion were discussed (e.g. not sure if “will” is appropriate as don’t know if our website can hold this functionality; that this will be investigated).
- Reminder: the question asked us “when” not “how”.

*Motion: That the functions of (1) direct online payment options for literature orders, (2) a contribution button when ordering literature and (3) a contribution button on the home page of our website be added to the NZAFG website when we have the capacity.*

**CARRIED**

## NZAGSB Traditional Approval

Traditional approval is the procedure whereby the Board (NZAGSB) presents to the Conference the nominees for successors to the Board for approval by vote. Traditional approval gives expression to the principles in Concepts One, Three, Six, Seven and Ten and acknowledges the ultimate authority of the groups through their Delegates and demonstrates the oversight of the Board and the NZ Al-Anon General Service Office. The vote is an expression of general support of the functioning of the Board.

The NZAGSB selects nominations for new Board members and presents them to Conference. The NZAGSB elects its own successors; all nominees are subject to the approval of NZASC.

After Conference, at the Annual General Meeting of the NZAGSB, the Board formally makes the appointments by electing the nominees.

*Nominees (nominated for the next 12 months)*

|                   |             |                     |         |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------|
| Board Chair       | Tracy B     | Convention Chair    | Robyn D |
| Alt Board Chair   | Vacant      | Public Outreach     | Rana S  |
| General Secretary | Sally-ann M | Literature          | Vacant  |
| Treasurer         | Tina McC    | Editorial           | Vacant  |
| NRBM              | Robyn D     | IAGSM 2             | Liz A   |
| CRBM              | Vacant      | IAGSM 1             | Tracy B |
| SRBM              | Vacant      | IAGSM Alt           | Rana S  |
| Delegates Liaison | Paula B     | Alateen             | Paula B |
| Conference        | Vacant      | Website Coordinator | Vacant  |
| Exec/Budget       | Liz A       | Archivist           | Vacant  |

Voting Conference members agreed with a show of hands to have a single motion for the Board member nominations.

Area Four Delegate led the discussion and invited questions from the floor. There were no questions.

*Motion: That the NZASC give traditional approval of the board member nominations presented for the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board.*

**CARRIED**

The Board Chair thanked Conference for their participation and ongoing support.

## Chosen Selected Committees

As noted earlier, each Delegate is requested to be a member of a Selected Committee. Their term begins at the conclusion of the September 2024 Board meeting and continues until 31 August 2025.

The following committees were selected by the Delegates:

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Alateen Committee          | Louren P, Teena H |
| Conference Committee       | Louren P, Angie M |
| Convention Committee       | Christina V       |
| Editorial Committee        |                   |
| Executive Budget Committee | Helen P, Chris W  |
| Literature Committee       | Renée S           |
| Public Outreach Committee  | Diane W, Di D     |

# Workshop: Sharing of Favourite Spiritual Readings

Liz A & Helen P

A fun and interactive game of “pass the parcel” occurred with all Conference members sitting around in a circle. A facilitator played music (with plenty of spiritual messages) while the parcel – with a different wrapping for every layer, plus a chocolate frog (“**F**ully **R**ely **O**n **G**od”) with readings as listed below. The CAL readings were all supplied by Conference members prior to Conference.

Each person who had the parcel when the music stopped read the reading aloud, then chose a word that they thought summed up the reading. Their words and the page number of the readings is below.

## Conference Approved Literature (CAL) item

*Hope for Today*, December 25 pg. 360  
*The Up-Hill Road, Forum Favorites*, 1998 Vol.2, pg. 138  
*Courage To Change*, October 18th, pg. 297  
*From Survival to Recovery*, pg. 269-270  
*Courage to Change*, October 9th pg. 283  
*Courage to Change*, February 28th, pg. 64  
*Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, pg. 200-203  
*How Al-Anon Works* pg. 16  
*Courage to Change*, June 5th pg. 157  
*Hope for Today*, December 25, pg. 360  
*The Al-Anon Family Groups Classic Edition*, pg. 183

## Spiritual words

Peace  
Accepting Reality  
Progress  
Community  
Surrender  
Willing  
Humility  
Waiting  
Family of Choice  
Acceptance  
Small Miracles

## Themes and Service Goal

### NZASC Theme 2025

The theme chosen for the June 2025 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference is:

Being hopeful, open and willing

### Service Goal for 2024/2025

This is the Goal that Delegates and Board members chose to take from the 2024 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference as a guide for service until the next Conference in June 2025.

Creating enthusiasm for service

### Al-Anon Theme at AA Convention 2025

This is the theme chosen for the Al-Anon participation at the AA Convention with Al-Anon participation on 17-19 January 2025 in Waitangi, Bay of Islands. The AA theme is **Acceptance is the answer**.

Awareness, Acceptance, Action

# Outgoing Members' Sharings

## Kirsten W, Literature Chair

*Literature Committee responsibility is to revise the Handbook and adapt WSO guidelines and pamphlets to suit the New Zealand structure.*

I feel like I've finally got the hang of Conference and I'm leaving. I was at Conference previously as the Area Seven Delegate. I remember being uneasy and scared around things like traditional approval and what that meant. I was jittery and bullish at the same time, I didn't have the background or knowledge and I felt exposed in my newness.

I did not serve as RBM but was asked to come to the Board for the Literature Committee. I have enjoyed my time on the Board. Board service has seen me through some hard times in my personal life, and being part of the Board was a real comfort. At the Board I met with kindness and understanding.

As I have experienced in other levels of service, time expanded. When I was personally stretched, service did not take anything from me, it gave me a different focus, affirmation and identity. Seeing Board service in action was pretty impressive. I have seen good behaviour modelled using our legacies, and a lot of commitment.

At the beginning I came on as Literature Chair to a committee that had three very experienced members. They were well down the track of editing the NZ Service Handbook, which had been edited at will over the years. One member with strong focus and ability to format and write had undertaken the edit, incorporating the KN-17 pages into the Handbook, which increased its size. Month by month the Literature Committee read and approved his edits. It was a pleasant and happy experience.

I was an experienced editor and writer so I was able to follow, suggest corrections and point out formatting issues.

Once Conference had approved the new Handbook, I was able to follow through on printing it last year. I followed a path already well-trodden using a printer previously used by Al-Anon for the Handbook. Because of the increased size, we needed to move from stapling to a spiral binding. This was different but an improvement as it allows us to hold a page and place in the Handbook.

I am proud of the Handbook which has many problems sorted out, although there will always be on-going work. I have kept a record of any further changes that will come to Conference next year. This was instead of trying to reprint every year.

The experienced members came to the end of their terms. I asked other members to come onto the committee.

The fillable forms on the website for Board profiles were drafted by the same member who did the Handbook update. The forms have recently been updated by another Al-Anon member, to sort out some technical issues.

In the past year I volunteered to undertake the membership survey, as there was no other current work for the Literature Committee.

The membership survey was a great collaboration with members from my home groups who I knew had expertise. It cost us nothing apart from our time, as we used the free Google Forms. I was so impressed by the resulting survey document, which I think is full of useful information and is simple and easy to read. I would like Delegates to read it carefully and find what spoke to them, to take back to their Area and Groups.

I encourage any Delegate coming to the end of the term to remember the progression is on to Regional Board Member. The Board has struggled without those Regional Board Members, and at times has been down to five Board members.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve. I am looking forward to doing more service in public outreach.

## Di D, Area Four Delegate

I came into the Al-Anon rooms an angry wife of a drunk. I was annoyed that I had had to give up my quilting evening because of him. I didn't feel I fitted in but loved talking to people not slurring their words. I held back and remained aloof – keeping most at arm's length.

On reflection I became Delegate out of a sense of duty.

- No one else would do it.
- It was 'my turn'.
- Area Four needed 'someone – anyone would do' so why not me.

I had no idea what it involved. I just thought if those I had seen before me could be Delegate, then so could I. I had not read the Handbook!

I don't remember much of my first year. At this time COVID consumed my world and ironically, I missed my first Conference because of it. Also, I didn't understand the Delegate role; was a bit directionless and lost.....I still hadn't read the Handbook and hadn't been introduced to the concept of a service sponsor.

My service journey, and in fact, my Al-Anon journey, changed at Conference last year. I didn't want to come. I was terrified, anxious, and dreading it. I wanted it to be over as fast as possible (lucky me; it was a three-day Conference).

It proved to be transformational. I met like-minded people. People I could relate to and talk with. It gave the NZ Handbook and WSO Service Manual meaning and value. Al-Anon became more real and I received fellowship I never expected, but I treasure.

At Conference last year I was voted to be the AA Convention with Al-Anon / Alateen participation chair. Something I had volunteered to do. I wondered who this person was that I had become. I was excited and looked forward to the challenge. Thanks to Al-Anon service I had grown, learnt important skills, gained tools, and had a higher power to guide me and lean on. All thanks to service. 2024 AA Convention planning took much of my Al-Anon time. It was busy. It gave me the most amazing opportunities, like working alongside wonderful AA members and giving me the honour to get to know amazing Al-Anon members. I learnt more about this wonderful fellowship and its processes. I learnt more about me!

On reflection, it probably took my focus away from my Delegate duties, so it is with sadness that I come to the end of my three years. (Something I never thought I would say when I started!) I feel I have unfinished business. There is more I would like to do. For this reason, I have told my AFG and Area Four Committee, I will re-stand at our November Assembly, only if there is an Alternate Delegate. However, if it isn't God's plan for me, I am still excited as Conference has enlightened me on the other ways I can do service.

I am still a wife of someone struggling with hazardous drinking, but I am no longer angry. Going to meetings doesn't annoy me anymore. Importantly, it is service, especially being a Delegate, that has helped me not keep members at such arm's length and given me an understanding of the wider sense of fellowship.

For that, and for you all, I am very grateful.

# Closing Sharing Meeting

Robyn D & Angie M

Before Sunday lunch, which is followed by the AGM for Board members only, the final hour of Conference was devoted to a sharing meeting. All Conference members sat around in a circle, reading from Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and sharing.



The final day of Conference 2024 was the actual day of New Zealand's 70th Al-Anon Family Groups anniversary:

"The first NZ wives group started in Dunedin in 1948 in a private home; other groups began to meet and in 1954 these became known as the Al-Anon Family Groups. The first meeting was on 16 June 1954 at Dunedin. Gradually Al-Anon Family Groups were formed in other towns and cities."

(NZ Handbook 2022, page 125)

...so we celebrated with cake made by one of the Conference members.

← *see anonymised photo*

It was a lovely way for the Delegates and Conference support members to end a full-on four days of mahi.

(The Board still had a couple more hours of service to go after lunch.)

# Board and Selected Committee Reports

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## Board Chair Report

Tracy B

In this report, please note that the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) is referred to as the Board.

For the last year, the Board has met face to face at the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office in Pitt Street, Auckland. We started this last year with reduced numbers on the Board and I wish to thank the dedication and work that all Board members have accomplished this year while covering the vacant roles of General Secretary, Alternate Chair, Conference Chair, and three RBM roles.

It has been an exciting year for the Board as we have welcomed three new Board members to the table. The total of the NZAGSB is currently 8 serving members. We are very hopeful that more members will join us soon.

The Board have been using a different approach this year for recruitment, by welcoming new Board members to the Board and then after a period, allocating service roles to them that will benefit the fellowship instead of each member applying for a certain role. This approach is also used by the World Service Office in the recruitment of members to the Board and Selected Committees and has been serving us well.

The role of Board Minute Secretary became available during the year, and after advertising to the fellowship, this role was filled in time for our December Board meeting. This is an invaluable service role that assist's all Board members to be able to participate fully in the meeting and we are excited to have this role filled with a new member participation in service at a national level.

As Board Chair I have covered the General Secretary's role and have consulted with Board members as required. I have also had assistance from Board members in the writing of the Board Newsletter. In the absence of an Alternate Board Chair, Board members have made themselves available as Alternate Board Chair on a rotation basis, this was a great support. In the absence of RBMs this year we have changed our approach from previous years and have one Board member who is assigned as the Delegate Liaison and reports back on Area activities and concerns at each Board meeting. This is working well for all Delegates and the Board. Thank you to the National Alateen Chair who has taken on this role in keeping the lines of communication open between the fellowship and the board. Your hard work and dedication is very much appreciated.

As with every Conference Goal, the 2024 goal of "Keep coming back. Service works if you work at it!" is brought to the forefront of all Board meetings, in fact it is on top of all our agenda's. Each year, the Board works to have all actions and activities of the Board to be transparent to the fellowship. We do this by using the Board Newsletter, which is published after each Board meeting. This enables us to share news, changes, instructions, and activities, so it can be widely read by the whole fellowship. The newsletter is sent to all Delegates to share with Group Representatives who can then share to each group and Lone Members. The Board Newsletter is also available on the website under the Members tab. We encourage you to share this information far and wide.

Keeping this year's Conference Goal in mind, the Board participated in a training day which was created and facilitated by a former Board member. The topic was "The Ability to Respond" based around the 12 Concepts of Service. It is important for us to always take the opportunity to learn and grow and move forward in our program of recovery. This was a fantastic day and I wish to thank the previous Board member for her service in this role.

Post the global Covid-19 pandemic, the World Service Office realised there was a need for them to keep in touch with international structures to help with the ever-changing environment that structures around the world are facing, such as the introduction of online meetings and less people attending face to face meetings. Therefore, an international team was formed. The New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board has been invited to use this resource on a regular basis. Every few months the Board (via the IAGSM Delegates) can touch base with the international team to find out what is happening around the world and at WSO, to inform the WSO how New Zealand is tracking and ask any questions that is require by our structure to serve our fellowship efficiently and effectively. So far, the IASGM Delegates have had one meeting and the Board have had two meetings with the international team. Our next meeting scheduled is in June 2024. The Board have found these meetings extremely helpful as we navigate new growth and change within the New Zealand structure.

From the IAGSM Conference in London in 2022, the IAGSM Delegates brought back a new initiative in the "Board Road Trip". A task force was formed, chaired by the IAGSM 2nd Delegate at the time to plan New Zealand's first

road trip. This was held in Area Six in February 2024 with Board members and members of the Executive Budget Committee in attendance. This day is an opportunity to get to meet the Board members and Exec Committee and get an understanding of the roles on the Board, how NZAGSO operates and meet our Office Manager.

NZ Al-Anon News (known as the NZAGSO News) contains information for the groups that is necessary for our services to continue and the New Zealand structure to be upheld. You will find the yearly statistics listed in the Executive Budget Chairs report to Conference. We ask members to share this with other members and read it out at more than one meeting. When the NZAGSO does not have each group's current mailing address (CMA) then this communication breaks down. Please make sure that your group contact information is current. The NZAGSO is currently working to improve the format of the News to make it more readable from a digital device.

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) acts as the clearing house New Zealand wide for enquiries from those who need help or want information about Al-Anon Family Groups and Alateen. The NZAGSO meets the service responsibilities of Al-Anon Family Groups daily. The NZAGSO is answerable to the Board through the Executive Budget Chair who is the NZAGSO representative on the Board. The Board would like to show appreciation and give thanks to the Executive Budget Chair, the Office Manager, the Selected Committee members, and volunteers that have been able to keep the NZAGSO operating to serve the fellowship.

Our Conference Summaries are another valuable resource for members to be aware of what is happening within the New Zealand Al-Anon Family Group's and are FREE on the website for members to view. These are not just for the Conference attendees. They have wonderful workshop and presentation ideas, news from other Areas, Board and Selected Committee reports. All this information is collated and put together by a dedicated Conference committee so that these resources are available to the fellowship. I wish to thank the former Conference Chair and her committee for their hard work over the last year in getting the 2023 Conference Summary completed and sent to the fellowship.

The Literature Chair and committee have continued to work on updating of our literature. Many resources are available free of charge, from the NZ Al-Anon website through the members tab. Many thanks to the Literature Chair and committee for their consistent and valuable work done on behalf of the Al-Anon Family Groups.

The 60th Annual Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous with Al-Anon Participation was held on the 19th – 21st January 2024. The Convention was held at Woodford House School in Havelock North, Hawke's Bay. The Al-Anon theme was "Together we can make it". This was a very successful event, and the Board wish to give huge thanks to the Area 4 Delegate for stepping into the role of Al-Anon Convention Chair in the absence of a Central Regional Board Member. With the assistance of the committee of volunteers and the National Alateen Chair they made this Convention such a wonderful experience. Thank-you everyone for all your hard work and dedication.

At present, Alateen activity is still occurring in Area Seven with AMIAS being approved in many Areas throughout New Zealand waiting for Alateen meetings. Alateen was available at the AA Convention in January 2024, there was one Alateen in attendance. There was also opportunity for AMIAS in attendance to engage in some valuable training.

The financial situation of New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups continues to look good, with donations continually coming in from Areas as well as personal contributions. Our annual audit has also been successfully completed. Our thanks go out to the Board Treasurer for her diligence and commitment to ensure careful wisdom is applied through the Traditions and Concepts on behalf of the fellowship.

We welcomed a new Board member into the National Public Outreach role. Work is now underway on some new initiatives that will be brought to Conference 2024. Public outreach is essential for the growth of Al-Anon Family Groups, and the Board is very grateful to have this role filled and thank the Public Outreach Chair for her hard work and willingness in her new role.

As Lois W commented at the 1984 IAGSM *"God has worked through Al-Anon, Alateen and AA. If we stay open to Him, we will continue to have reason to be optimistic."*

## Treasurer's Report

Tina McC

### Financial Performance

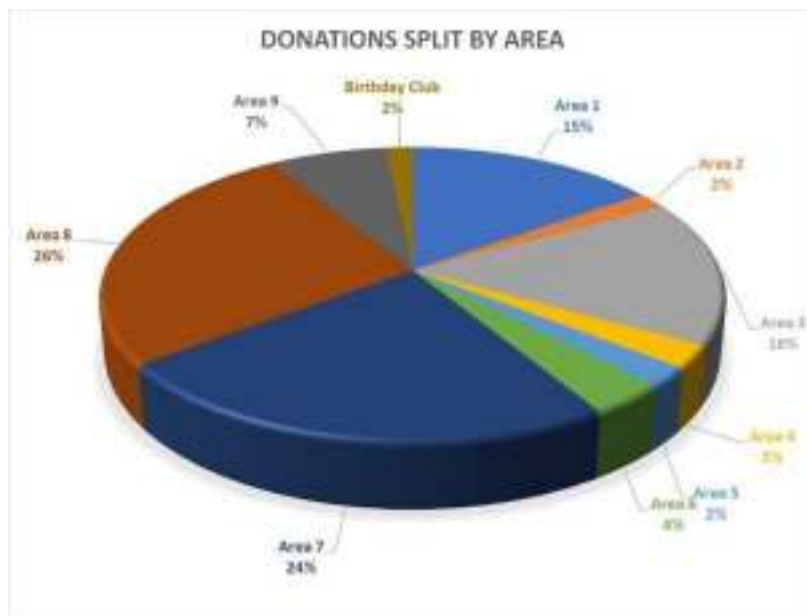
As illustrated in detail below, our financial performance has improved this financial year, which is great news for the fellowship. We have seen an increase in both donations and literature sales and have been positively impacted by the strengthening of term deposit interest rates. Our expenses have also seen an increase on the last financial year as the rise in inflation has been reflected in our running costs.

## Donations

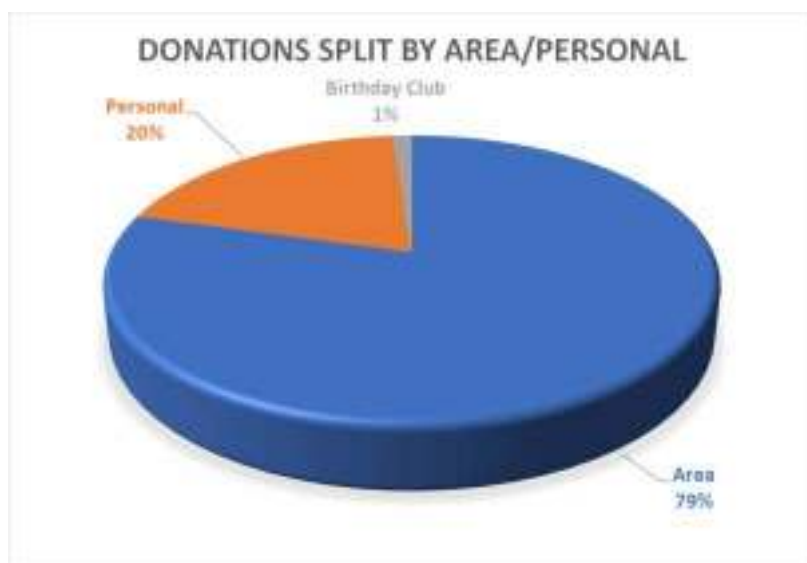
Al-Anon's Tradition Seven states we are "fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions". This makes us financially dependent on the contributions we receive from our members. Members donate through their groups, through their fund-raising efforts, and through personal donations made directly to the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO).

The Conference approved budget for group donations in the 2023/2024 financial year was \$46,860 and our total received is \$54,248, combined group and personal donations. This is an almost \$5,000 increase on the donations received in the previous financial year and The Al-Anon New Zealand General Service Board (NZAGSB) remains extremely grateful for members continued contributions and for the initiatives and events that groups have organised to contribute to this. In the current economic climate and with our membership still in decline, it is important for NZAGSB to maintain the request for financial donations to enable us to work towards sustainability as a fellowship and ride out the inevitable fluctuations in our cashflows.

The split of donations by Area, is as follows:



The split between personal donations and Group/Area donations is as follows:



Each year, we review the distribution of the number of meetings (and the distribution of members within these) based on the best information available – 2023 group registrations (2024 registrations are not available until after this report has gone out). For the 2023/2024 year we budgeted to receive \$1.70 per week, per member. This gives the following breakdown:

| Area        | Number of Meetings | Approx. Total Members | Budget 23/24 |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1           | 9                  | 57                    | \$5,039      |
| 2           | 7                  | 50                    | \$4,420      |
| 3           | 12                 | 108                   | \$9,547      |
| 4           | 2                  | 14                    | \$1,238      |
| 5           | 4                  | 26.5                  | \$2,343      |
| 6           | 6                  | 34                    | \$3,006      |
| 7           | 10                 | 94.5                  | \$8,354      |
| 8           | 13                 | 98.5                  | \$8,707      |
| 9           | 7                  | 38.5                  | \$3,403      |
| Grand Total | 70                 | 521                   | \$46,056     |

Comparing this budget to the 2023/2024 result, (which includes personal donations), some Areas are struggling to make the budget. However, once all Areas are totalled the result exceeds the budget for the year, which is a great effort for all Areas. The graph above shows that 20% of donations received are personal donations.

## Other Income

We generate some of our inflow each year from interest on our ample reserve held in term deposits. For the second year in a row, due to increased interest rates, we have seen almost triple the interest earned this year in comparison to the last – a total of \$6,458. This has helped to offset the increases in expenses as detailed below. Our other source of additional income for this financial year was a very generous donation from the 2024 AA Convention with AI Anon participation of \$3,500. We thank all those involved with the fundraising at the Convention.

## Literature Sales

We sell Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to provide a service to our fellowship and for Public Outreach – our goal is not to produce income.

Any profit seen in our financial statements from literature sales is to help offset any overhead costs incurred in fulfilling this service to the fellowship. Examples of expenses incurred:

- Rent paid for our NZAGSO
- Paying our Office Manager
- Travel reimbursed to volunteers

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 has stabilised in the last financial year but has still been trending on the low side. In the 2023/2024 financial year the rate has varied from as low as \$0.59 to now sitting around \$0.61.

We have not re-priced the literature in the last financial year due to the continued trend, but we continue to monitor this monthly. We are currently working through a targeted re-price of some of our literature which we will roll out later in the year and we hope will make some items more affordable. Overall, the gross profit from literature sales was \$11,159, a 10% increase on last year, so this justifies a future re-price to bring this down for the next financial year.

## Expenses

Our total expenses for the 2023/2024 financial year have tracked in line with the previous year. Due to the large increase in expenses last year, it was budgeted that our expenses would total \$93,892 for the year ending 31 March 2024. We have again managed to keep well under this with a total of \$77,696, most of this is attributed to not utilizing the public outreach budget. The expenses which have exceeded their budget for this financial year include the board member expenses and the board road trip. The board members' expenses were more than double the budget set. This has been due to the increase in board members this financial year and the increased cost of domestic travel and fuel.

## Financial Position

Our current assets are comprised of cash at bank and literature. We continue to hold \$100,000 in term deposits of \$50,000 each, rolling off at three-month intervals to avoid potential cash flow issues. Our only fixed assets are our office furniture, which we have made no additions to this financial year. We have no substantial liabilities outstanding at year end.

In conclusion, NZAGSO's financial results for the 2023/2024-year show that we have somewhat recovered from the deficit we experienced last year. We have the fellowship to thank for the surplus we have recorded this year as it is due to our members generous donations and the continued support of literature sales, even when there is now the ability to purchase online. It is important to keep reminding our Groups and Areas to support NZAGSO when they can so we can sustain our fellowship into the future.

| NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS |         |                          |                          |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Balance Sheet                     |         |                          |                          |
| Assets                            | FY 2024 |                          | FY 2023                  |
| Cash at Bank                      |         |                          |                          |
| ANZ-00 Cheque Account             | \$      | 8,286                    | \$ 6,707                 |
| ANZ Term Deposit                  | \$      | 100,000                  | \$ 100,000               |
| ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver               | \$      | 1,743                    | \$ 1,853                 |
| ANZ-01 Online On Call             | \$      | 41,338                   | \$ 36,089                |
| ANZ-Ample Reserve Account         | \$      | 1,543                    | \$ 2,336                 |
| Total Cash at Bank                |         | <u>\$ 152,909</u>        | <u>\$ 146,985</u>        |
| Other Assets                      |         |                          |                          |
| Sundry Debtors                    | -\$     | 319                      | -\$ 260                  |
| Literature On hand                | \$      | 5,223                    | \$ 5,596                 |
| Total Other Assets                |         | <u>\$ 4,904</u>          | <u>\$ 5,336</u>          |
| Total Current Assets              |         | <u>\$ 157,814</u>        | <u>\$ 152,321</u>        |
| Fixed Assets                      |         |                          |                          |
| Office Equipment over \$500       | \$      | 1,792                    | \$ 2,810                 |
| Total Fixed Assets                |         | <u>\$ 1,792</u>          | <u>\$ 2,810</u>          |
| <b>Total Assets</b>               |         | <u><b>\$ 159,605</b></u> | <u><b>\$ 155,130</b></u> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                |         |                          |                          |
| Sundry Creditors                  | \$      | -                        | \$ 15                    |
| GST                               |         |                          |                          |
| GST on Purchases                  | \$      | 23                       | -\$ 301                  |
| GST to/From IRD                   |         |                          |                          |
| Total GST                         |         | <u>\$ 23</u>             | <u>-\$ 301</u>           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>          |         | <u><b>\$ 23</b></u>      | <u><b>-\$ 286</b></u>    |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                 |         | <u><b>\$ 159,582</b></u> | <u><b>\$ 155,416</b></u> |
| <b>Equity</b>                     |         | <u><b>\$ 159,582</b></u> | <u><b>\$ 155,416</b></u> |

# NZ ALANON GENERAL SERVICES

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

| Assets at Bank                 | 2024             | 2023             | 2022             | 2021             | 2020             | 2019             | 2018            | 2017            | 2016            |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ANZ-80 Cheque Account          | \$6,280          | \$6,737          | \$5,670          | \$3,953          | \$7,032          | \$6,943          | \$3,803         | \$2,791         | \$2,791         |
| ANZ Term Deposit               | \$190,000        | \$190,000        | \$190,271        | \$90,000         | \$90,000         |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| ANZ-01 Online Call account     | \$1,343          | \$1,883          | \$789            | \$2,088          | \$11,986         | \$5,715          | \$1,341         | \$3,391         | \$3,391         |
| ANZ eSaver Airplus Reserve Acc | \$41,339         | \$36,089         | \$45,439         | \$81,121         | \$46,882         | \$89,498         | \$83,861        | \$83,678        | \$83,678        |
| ANZ-02 (ACSM eSaver Account)   | \$1,543          | \$2,389          | \$6,773          | \$9,597          | \$4,198          | \$4,280          | \$7,218         | \$1,018         | \$1,018         |
| undeposited cheques/cash       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                 |                 |
|                                | <u>\$152,905</u> | <u>\$196,005</u> | <u>\$157,071</u> | <u>\$143,679</u> | <u>\$118,098</u> | <u>\$103,525</u> | <u>\$99,225</u> | <u>\$75,888</u> | <u>\$75,888</u> |

## Schedule of Fixed Assets and Depreciation

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

| ASSET                      | Date   | Cost         | Accumulated Depreciation 2023 | Book Value 31-Mar-2023 | Additional (Disposals) | Rate      | Accumulated Depreciation 2024 | Book Value 31-Mar-2024 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Office Equipment</b>    |        |              |                               |                        |                        |           |                               |                        |
| Projector                  | Apr-12 | 1,128        | -                             | -                      | -                      | 17.50% SL | -                             | -                      |
| HP Laptop                  | Dec-17 | 382          | -                             | -                      | -                      | 40.00% SL | -                             | -                      |
| Router Printer             | Jun-20 | 791          | 234                           | 132                    | -                      | 36.00% SL | 132                           | 6                      |
| HP Desktop Office Computer | Dec-21 | 1,758        | 704                           | 858                    | -                      | 40.00% SL | 704                           | 155                    |
|                            |        | <u>2,791</u> | <u>234</u>                    | <u>132</u>             | <u>0</u>               |           | <u>836</u>                    | <u>156</u>             |
| <b>Office Furniture</b>    |        |              |                               |                        |                        |           |                               |                        |
| Furniture                  | 1989   | 2,791        | -                             | -                      | -                      | 10.00% SL | -                             | -                      |
| Shelving                   | 1990   | 241          | -                             | -                      | -                      | 10.00% SL | -                             | -                      |
| Furniture                  | 1991   | 344          | -                             | -                      | -                      | 10.00% SL | -                             | -                      |
| Moving Shelving            | 1995   | 572          | -                             | -                      | -                      | 12.50% SL | -                             | -                      |
| Podium                     | 1996   | 189          | -                             | -                      | -                      | 15.00% SL | -                             | -                      |
| Office Desk Agile Winder   | Mar-22 | 729          | 73                            | 936                    | -                      | 10.00% SL | 73                            | 963                    |
| Office Chair Lure          | Mar-22 | 585          | 57                            | 308                    | -                      | 10.00% SL | 57                            | 452                    |
| Credenza Cabinet           | Jun-22 | 710          | 50                            | 824                    | -                      | 8.00% SL  | 53                            | 551                    |
|                            |        | <u>6,451</u> | <u>185</u>                    | <u>1,619</u>           | <u>0</u>               |           | <u>183</u>                    | <u>1,436</u>           |
| <b>Total</b>               |        |              | <u>420</u>                    | <u>1,931</u>           |                        |           | <u>1,019</u>                  | <u>1,792</u>           |

| LITERATURE STOCK on Hand          | 31/03/2024      | 31/03/2023      | 31/03/2022      | 31/03/2021      | 31/03/2020      | 31/03/2019      | 31/03/2018      | 31/03/2017      | 31/03/2016      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| at US dollars before freight      | 3,133.77        | 3,511.23        | 3,721.25        | 2,966.85        | 3,144.23        | 2,365.81        | 3,358.42        | 2,798.25        | 3,434.83        |
| Exchange rate at 31 March         | 0.80            | 0.80            | 0.70            | 0.70            | 0.80            | 0.88            | 0.72            | 0.75            | 0.88            |
| at NZ \$ Cost Price including GST | <u>8,222.95</u> | <u>8,509.39</u> | <u>8,318.13</u> | <u>4,349.89</u> | <u>8,279.19</u> | <u>3,489.44</u> | <u>4,840.62</u> | <u>3,665.56</u> | <u>3,527.54</u> |

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

## Statement of Equity

|                           | 2024              | 2023              |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Opening retained earnings | \$ 155,416        | \$ 165,549        |
| Current year earnings     | \$ 4,166          | -\$ 10,133        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$ 159,582</b> | <b>\$ 155,416</b> |

**NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS  
AUDIT FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FY 2024**

**Profit and Loss**

|                                         | FY2024 Actuals   | FY2023 Actuals   |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Income:</b>                          |                  |                  |
| <b>Donations</b>                        |                  |                  |
| Area/Personal Donations                 |                  |                  |
| Donations Area One                      | \$ 6,423         | \$ 2,416         |
| Donations Area One Personal             | \$ 640           | \$ 266           |
| Donations Area Two                      | \$ 782           | \$ 699           |
| Donations Area Two Personal             | \$ 822           | \$ 1,722         |
| Donations Area Three                    | \$ 6,818         | \$ 5,526         |
| Donations Area Three Personal           | \$ 1,897         | \$ 1,240         |
| Donations Area Four                     | \$ 1,040         | \$ 530           |
| Donations Area Four Personal            | \$ 105           | \$ 20            |
| Donations Area Five                     | \$ 2,300         | \$ 2,560         |
| Donations Area Five Personal            | \$ 929           | \$ 1,019         |
| Donations Area Six                      | \$ 1,474         | \$ 1,315         |
| Donations Area Six Personal             | \$ 601           | \$ 711           |
| Donations Area Seven                    | \$ 9,992         | \$ 11,534        |
| Donations Area Seven Personal           | \$ 3,147         | \$ 3,007         |
| Donations Area Eight                    | \$ 11,208        | \$ 13,353        |
| Donations Area Eight Personal           | \$ 1,802         | \$ 193           |
| Donations Area Nine                     | \$ 3,020         | \$ 3,000         |
| Donations Area Nine Personal            | \$ 570           | \$ 920           |
| Donations - Birthday Club (ex Personal) | \$ 679           | \$ 777           |
| <b>Total Area/Personal Donations</b>    | <u>\$ 54,248</u> | <u>\$ 50,806</u> |
| <b>Other Donation Income</b>            |                  |                  |
| Equalised Conference Contribution       | \$ 6,301         | \$ 5,097         |
| Convention Donations                    | \$ 3,535         | \$ 3,018         |
| Board Road Trip Donation                | \$ 147           |                  |
| Messenger Donations                     |                  |                  |
| <b>Total Other Donation Income</b>      | <u>\$ 9,983</u>  | <u>\$ 8,114</u>  |
| <b>Other Income</b>                     |                  |                  |
| Other Income                            |                  | \$ 225           |
| Literature Profit                       | \$ 11,159        | \$ 5,982         |
| Interest/Dividend Received              | \$ 1,915         | \$ 773           |
| Received Interest - Term Deposit        | \$ 4,544         | \$ 1,687         |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>               | <u>\$ 17,617</u> | <u>\$ 8,668</u>  |
| <b>Total Income</b>                     | <u>\$ 81,849</u> | <u>\$ 67,588</u> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                         |                  |                  |
| ACC Levy                                |                  | \$ 65            |
| Audit/Accounting Fees                   | \$ 1,550         | \$ 1,500         |
| Assets-<\$500                           | \$ 329           | \$ 136           |
| Archives                                |                  |                  |
| Bank Charges                            | \$ 55            | \$ 71            |
| Board Member Expenses                   | \$ 7,085         | \$ 3,636         |
| NRBM Expenses                           |                  |                  |
| CRBM Expenses                           |                  |                  |
| SRBM Expenses                           |                  |                  |
| Computer/Office Equipment               | \$ 1,784         | \$ 1,209         |
| Donation to WSO                         | \$ 1,000         | \$ 4,225         |
| Accum Depreciation                      | \$ 1,018         | \$ 1,124         |
| Conference Payments                     | \$ 6,406         | \$ 7,392         |
| Conference Travel Delegates             | \$ 2,931         | \$ 1,463         |
| Convention Expenses                     | \$ 174           | \$ 146           |
| IAGSM Paid Expenses                     | \$ 4,717         | \$ 5,461         |
| Postage (less recovered)                | \$ 824           | \$ 913           |
| Charities Commission Fee                | \$ 44            | \$ 44            |
| Printing & Stationery                   | \$ 1,305         | \$ 1,720         |
| Public Outreach Expenses                | \$ 644           | \$ 3,061         |
| Rent & Rates                            | \$ 12,688        | \$ 12,596        |
| Repairs & Maintenance                   | \$ -             | \$ 880           |
| Staff Amenities (ex Petty Cash)         | \$ 98            | \$ 94            |
| Telephone/Internet                      | \$ 1,704         | \$ 1,694         |
| Volunteer Travel Fund                   | \$ 1,060         | \$ 1,074         |
| Office Administration                   | \$ 31,092        | \$ 29,204        |
| Board Road Trip                         | \$ 1,450         |                  |
| Stock Adjustment                        | \$ 84            | \$ 156           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                   | <u>\$ 77,696</u> | <u>\$ 77,852</u> |
| <b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>                | <u>\$ 4,153</u>  | <u>\$ 10,265</u> |

*Answers to Questions*

- The very generous donation from the 2024 AA Convention (\$3,500) was made up from the fundraising table, Tradition Seven donations and the percentage of proceedings from AA (proportional to AFG members attending Convention). See Convention Treasurer's report later in this Summary.

## Volunteers

The NZAGSO is open three days a week Tuesday to Thursday from 10 am to 3.30pm. The involvement of the regular volunteers is crucial, they are responsible for the picking, packing and shipping of literature orders for the fellowship. There are two volunteers that prepare the monthly mail-outs, one regular book room volunteer, and a Birthday Club volunteer who lives out of Auckland. We have another volunteer that can help in the office when our Office Manager is on leave. This year we have lost another volunteer. The NZAGSO would not be able to function without the input of these regular volunteers.

We continue to be amazed at the support the volunteers provide. To thank them, a morning tea was arranged in December. We continue to look for additional help, and if the recent Bi-Annual Appeal for service has had your Higher Power tapping you on the shoulder, please talk to us about doing some volunteer work at NZAGSO. It's an awesome place to learn about the workings of Al-Anon. Ask someone in service about their personal growth journey, you might just be inspired!

## Office Manager

Our Office Manager continues to provide a very professional level of support to our fellowship, Board and The Public. We are extremely grateful for her knowledge and input.

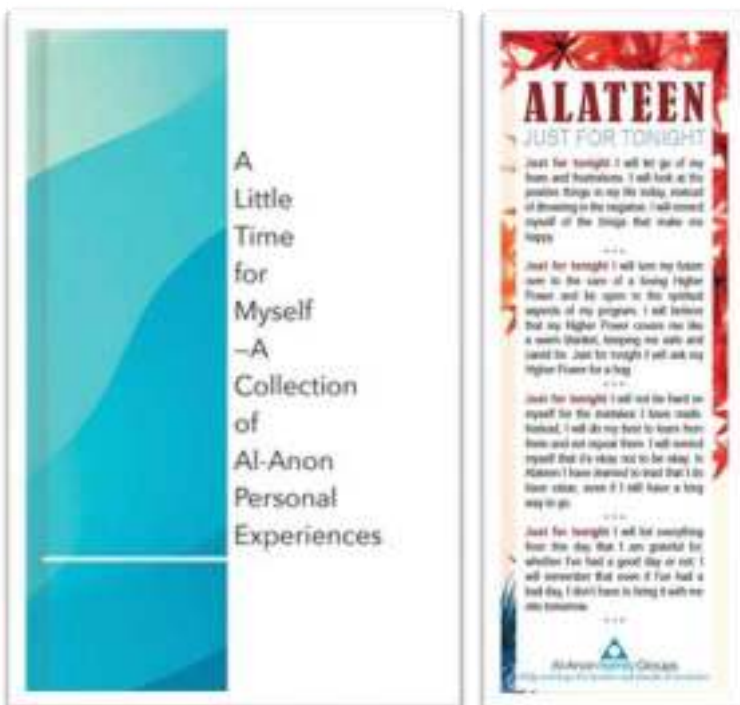
## Literature

Al-Anon Literature continues to flow from NZAGSO to the fellowship. Our volunteers are in the office on Wednesday when the orders are dispatched. New Literature introduced in 2023 included the daily reader "A Little Time for Myself". After a few issues with WSO being out of stock, we now have a regular supply. Freight, currency and manufacturing price increases have seen our Literature prices high through most of this year.

### *New literature items in 2023*

B34 - A Little Time for Myself (daily reader)

M82 – Just for Tonight Alateen (bookmark)



Top Literature Sales for 1/4/23 - 21/2/24

| Description       |                                | Units Sold  |      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Books & workbooks |                                | YTD - 2024* | 2023 |
| B34               | A Little Time for Myself       | 120         | 0    |
| B16               | Courage To Change              | 62          | 90   |
| P92               | Reaching for Personal Freedom  | 54          | 82   |
| B32               | How Al-Anon Works (soft cover) | 49          | 105  |
| B27               | Hope For Today                 | 29          | 33   |
| B06               | One Day At A Time              | 26          | 44   |
| P91               | Blue Print For Progress Large  | 19          | 34   |
| B24               | Paths To Recovery              | 18          | 23   |
| P93               | Paths to Recovery Workbook     | 14          | 12   |
| B21               | From Survival To Recovery      | 12          | 12   |
| <b>Pamphlets</b>  |                                |             |      |
| K10               | Newcomers Pamphlet             | 486         | 682  |
| S37               | Fact Sheet For Professionals   | 100         | 220  |
| S19               | Detachment-with ways to detach | 99          | 185  |
| P03               | Merry-Go-Round Named Denial    | 91          | 130  |
| P07               | Guide For The Family of Alchoh | 66          | 46   |
| P04               | Alcoholism The Family Disease  | 65          | 96   |
| P19               | What Do You Do About the Alcoh | 46          | 30   |
| P16               | To Parents of Alcoholics       | 43          | 30   |
| P01               | Al-Anon Is For Men             | 41          | 39   |
| P14               | So You Love An Alcoholic       | 32          | 77   |
| <b>Other</b>      |                                |             |      |
| M76               | Outreach Bookmark              | 420         | 559  |
| AFAM              | Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism-2021  | 150         | 87   |
| M81               | Just for Tonight Bookmark      | 134         | 171  |
| P24-27            | Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual | 47          | 10   |
| PN27              | NZ Service Handbook            | 44          | 79   |

\* YTD 2024 sales period - 01/04/2023 to 21/02/2024. 2023 sales period - 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023

Group & Meeting Numbers

| Group Numbers                   |          |          |          |      |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|------|
|                                 | Feb 2024 | May 2022 | Feb 2021 | 2020 |
| Total Number of groups          | *70      | 70       | 77       | 84   |
| Al-Anon Groups                  | 67       | 67       | 74       | 80   |
| Groups focus on Adult Children  | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1    |
| Alateen Groups                  | 2        | 2        | 2        | 3    |
| AIS                             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0    |
| Loners                          | 16       | 18       | 16       | 19   |
| Institutions                    | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0    |
| (Electronic Meeting location)** | 4        |          |          |      |

\*NB: This is the total of meetings in NZ as it includes 3 Groups that offer two meetings (e.g. on different nights)  
6 Groups offer both a Physical and Electronic meeting location (e.g. at the same day and time)  
\*\*These are Groups registered with NZAGSO and meeting electronically only (e.g. no physical meeting location).

## Summary of New & Disbanded Groups

| New Groups                               | Disbanded Groups               |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| WHANGANUI STEPS & SLOGANS (THURSDAY) AFG | WESTERN FREEDOM AFG (AUCKLAND) |
| COURAGE TO HEAL AFG (HAMILTON)           | PATHS TO RECOVERY AFG (TAHARA) |
| MEADOWBANK COURAGE TO BE ME ALATEEN      |                                |

## Birthday Club

There are currently down to 15 members subscribing to the Birthday Club and we have a volunteer who makes the beautiful handmade cards you can receive on your Al-Anon Birthday, please ask if you'd like to know more.

## Mailouts

The Al-Anon News is mailed to all the Groups, every month. This ensures the Groups have the most up to date information on happenings in NZAGSO, the latest financial reporting, fundraising activities, opportunities for members to take up service positions, our latest Literature special and if there is any new Literature available.

The mail is sent to 179 recipients in total; 39 by post and 152 by email (12 Groups receive both email and hard copy).

Mailouts include the monthly NZ Al-Anon News, Calendar of Events and other notices relating to the NZ wide fellowship e.g. Bi-Annual Appeal Letter, Convention Flyer, Annual Group Records Update.

| Mail Out Summary     |        |             |       |
|----------------------|--------|-------------|-------|
|                      | Groups | Individuals | Total |
| Total number on list | 70     | 109         | 179   |
|                      |        |             |       |
| Postal (hard copy)   | 28     | 11          | 39    |
| Email (digital copy) | 54     | 98          | 152   |
|                      |        |             |       |

\* NB: 12 groups receive both postal and email copy

\* Individuals include Lone Members, Board Members, Exec Committee, Area Delegates and other individuals

## Updates regarding the Office and Equipment

The Executive Budget Committee continues to meet monthly online and this is working well, allowing members from outside of Auckland to participate fully. We have five members and our Office Manager (who has voice, but no vote) attending. We hope to have more members join us in the next year.

The Executive Budget Committee took a committee inventory in 2023, and will continue to do so every year, this is a helpful process for identifying issues and strengths.

Our stocktake was carried out in March and again in September 2023. We have planned for one again at the end of this financial year, with a few volunteers from the Executive Budget Committee joining our Office Manager in the office, after hours, to assist.

New office furniture was purchased at the end of the 2023 financial year.

## Answers to Questions

- Lovely that there was a thank you morning tea for volunteers – were they all able to come? Not all were able to get into the thank you morning tea. This was a lovely initiative though and appreciated by a volunteer who was at Conference and not able to attend the morning tea.
- Is there anything organised for members not based in Tāmaki Makaurau who are willing to volunteer to do service remotely? It's a real possibility now that we can now look at. A Conference member mentioned that, during lockdown, she was able to volunteer to check the meeting location, date, time accuracy for all NZ meetings on the website as an example of what may be useful when we don't live locally.

At the NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) 2023 a Public Outreach (PO) Survey was run to find out what Conference members wanted as a focus for Public Outreach (in the absence of a National PO Chairperson). From this survey there were three clear winners: AA National Convention with Al-Anon Participation, Social Media, links to the NZ Al-Anon Family Groups (NZAFG) website. Also in 2023 the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) carried out a membership survey and one glaring item was that counselling services are not referring their clients to NZAFG.

Accordingly in September 2023 the NZAGSB agreed to set the current National Public Outreach Strategy of:

- 1) A short sharp focus on publicity for the January 2024 AA National Convention with Al-Anon participation (this will be dealt within the Convention Committee).
- 2) Then a national focus on existing Social Media Channels. In each Area to look at any social media channel (e.g.: Facebook Community Groups) that already exists and look at posting (anonymously of course) into it the approved images.
- 3) After that we are asking each Area to work on a campaign of contacting local counsellors, just like many Areas have focused on doctors.
- 4) The last piece of the strategy for the year will be to ask for any other websites where NZ Al-Anon Family Groups could potentially be listed and we will try approaching if appropriate.

Note: It is very clear that the fellowship would like a social media presence for the NZ Al-Anon Family Groups (NZAFG). However, this will take time and needs to go through the formal processes of the NZASC approval.

Once the strategy had been agreed Areas have been gradually engaged throughout the remainder of the year with a focus on items 2 and 3 above.

As a part of the PO for the AA National Convention with Al-Anon participation 2024 NZAFG funded:

- Advertisement of the Public Meeting in Hawke's Bay Today
- Small number of posters for the venue as part of in-reach
- 350 Bookmarks as give aways to all participants as a part of in-reach
- Printing of 350 NZAFG programmes so all participants had the programme as a part of in-reach

## Images

NZAFG has been using the squiggly road sign image since 2014 and the people in the bottle since 2018 and it is clear it is time to update our images to aid in PO at all levels as there have been murmurings from many Areas. During the year we have surveyed many other AFG structures and the PO imagery they are using and looked at which are most adaptable to NZ. From there we have sought and been granted the rights to use seven images (six from WSO and one from UK & Eire), these have now been amended to include the NZ contact details and we will be seeking NZASC approval of them, with the optional inclusion of a QR code (at the user's discretion).

## Future Plans

Finally a short word on future plans. Over the next year the current intention is to develop a social media strategy to trial and hopefully a knowledge based decision making (KBDM) paper will be presented at NZASC 2025 for approval.

New PO Images approved at NZASC 2024 via the motion "That the NZASC approves for use in Public Outreach the seven images, with the ability for members to include QR codes and meeting information as required."

## National Alateen Coordinator

**Paula B**

Let me draw your attention to the purpose of Al-Anon/Alateen: To help families and friends of alcoholics recover from the effects of living with someone whose drinking is a problem. Similarly, Alateen is our recovery program for young people. Alateen Groups are sponsored by Al-Anon.

Historically Alateen has been active. I recall my daughters immersing themselves in the Alateen program, initially it was the chocolate biscuits that attracted them, then came the fellowship of other teens and preteens. At its best, there were twelve members turning up each week. The Alateen Sponsors that gave their time freely have all passed away and I reported two years ago that the Alateen program has also lost its lustre in New Zealand Al-Anon.

We, as ambassadors for New Zealand Al-Anon/Alateen, have an obligation to keep Alateen alive in New Zealand.

Currently I would like to report that Alateen is starting to be on the lips of members in groups throughout New Zealand due to Groups and Areas actively ratifying Al-Anon members in Alateen Service (AMIAS).

At the 2023 Conference a workshop was presented talking about the next steps. Most Areas were getting AMIASs (Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service), then not being able to move forward. The idea of the Cart before the Horse was communicated meaning that the steps were: multiple AMIASs; Al-Anon Group to sponsor Alateen Group to help with rent; room preferably at the same venue as the sponsoring Group; register with NZAGSO so the Alateen Group goes on the NZAFG website; asking Groups in the Area to talk about the new Alateen meeting in their business meetings and to any newcomers that came through the doors.

Then start Public Outreach and stay in touch with the National Alateen Coordinator.

Area Seven had a development day taking the Public Outreach and the Alateen presentation from the 2023 Conference to the fellowship. They had eight teens turn up at the next Alateen meeting! I believe if the members don't take their pre-teens/ teens to Alateen, then Alateen will always be lacking. I hear that our best target for Outreach is AA, however, AAs feel, once they stop drinking, everything will be fine! As we know, this is not so. Making the opportunity for alcoholics to understand the devastation on their family is to have Alateen meetings at every AA Assembly with Al-Anon and Alateen participation.

My presentation at this Conference hopefully will answer some of your questions please come with an open mind. Looking forward to meeting with you all.

## Delegates' Liaison Support

**Paula B**

Over the past year I have been the Board Liaison with the Delegates, due to the lack of Regional Board Members in the New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups (NZAFG) structure.

At the 2023 Conference we had two observers due to the lack of Delegates in Area Two and Area Five. I sent their details to the Delegates' chat group so that they could get support from the other Delegates. I am happy to report that both Areas had Delegates at the 2024 Conference.

Due to the death of Area Seven's Delegate in November, the Alternate Delegate stepped up. At the Area Seven Assembly nominations, our new Delegate followed the mantra of her predecessor, who wouldn't stand as Delegate if the Area didn't have an Alternate Delegate. Fortunately another member was willing to stand, and was voted in as Alternate Delegate.

I have had a pretty busy start to the year in recovery, service, and my personal life, and plan to contact and support the newer Delegates over the next quarter to help them get ready for Conference. I hope to share the format of the development day, used in Area Seven, with Areas around New Zealand and my hope is that the Areas keep moving forward with perseverance.

Excited to see you all and sharing experience and hope with you.

### *Answers to Questions*

- Regarding the comment "I hope to share the format of the development day," a Delegate mentioned they're looking forward to receiving and using that format! I can do that and say how it evolves – reporting back to Area was only 30 minutes last year which isn't good enough – the Area needs to prioritise hearing back from Conference. I thought I'm not going and then the second time went along and learnt so much, so well facilitated by an Al-Anon member – it was amazing. Two things that stood out for me from Area Seven – Public Outreach and Alateen. That's what the development day was run on and it was great.
- A Delegate mentioned they weren't aware of the Delegate Liaison role until they were finishing their Conference report. What is the process to find this out? The process is the Delegate Liaison contacts new Delegates and – from then on – you contact me. Must have been missed in the handover from the previous Delegate.
- Suggestion: have the Delegate Liaison added to the Delegates chat group.
- Board roles (e.g. Delegate Liaison also goes out in the Board Newsletter – be sure to look out for it each quarter.

### *Answers to Questions continued*

- What is a Regional Board Member (RBM)? Is that role meant to be filled all the time or just when there is a Convention in the region? The current Delegate Liaison role covers THREE Board members – so thank you to our Delegate Liaison for being willing to serve the fellowship given the gap we have. RBMs are not just when we have special occasions / Conventions – the role is that they are the **connection** from the Board to the fellowship. They are the Delegates' voice at the Board table – that's how we stay connected to the fellowship. If we do not have Regional Board Members, we have a big gap. There are a number that we have not had for years. The role of Delegate Liaison is an interim thing so that the Board stay connected to the fellowship. **We require the fellowship to provide nominations.** (See NZ Handbook page 106)

## **International Al-Anon General Services Meeting**

**Liz A IAGSM Year 2  
& Tracy B IAGSM Year 1**

We are yet to receive our invitation to IAGSM 2024 Virginia Beach. We have been advised the details are not far away.

Communications with World Service Office (WSO) have been consistent since our last IAGSM. We have now had three WSO structure meetings, an initiative created as a solution after the 2022 London IAGSM to address a gap identified by International structures reaching out to WSO for assistance and not being able to get timely help.

Our New Zealand General Services Board (NZAGSB) has recognised the importance of this opportunity and made good use of the assigned hour to discuss a pre-arranged list of questions. We have had increased Board interest and attendance at each session as we build a direct relationship with the International team. These sessions are unable to be recorded but I have been told we can have a transcript of the conversation as it becomes available.

Another initiative the WSO International Team have begun are “Global Gatherings” every second month on a series of topics, so far including Alateen and Public Outreach. You may have seen an invitation in the Al-Anon news. All are welcome. Questions are gathered in advanced and answered by the appropriate WSO staff member. These sessions are being recorded and are available. No registrations necessary. Look out for your invitation in the Al-Anon News.

Our communications come through the AFG connects portal, which both IAGSM Delegates, and our Alternate Delegate, belong to. We have contact with all the other IAGSM Delegates from around the world, many of who we have met at IAGSM, and others who did not attend. It is a wealth of knowledge and we can share information between IAGSM meetings and structures as we need. It's a valuable resource.

### *Answers to Questions*

- What are Global Gatherings? A Delegate noticed that “all are welcome” but they didn't recall seeing information about these Global Gatherings. Global Gathering are new things and the three that have run so far haven't been communicated to the fellowship in the NZAGSO News or Board News due to the lateness of us receiving the electronic invitation information.
- Can we access those recordings to the global gathering through the website? Recordings will not be on the website – they are available though they're time-limited. There have been three gatherings and two recordings available.
- A Global Gathering is an online event from WSO that came about after the pandemic. There weren't a great deal of communications about then and many other structures' communication dropped away with WSO focusing on America and Canada. It was pointed out there was a big gap and, as a form of amends, an International structure was created – who initiated these global gatherings. The whole idea is to get it out to fellowship. Communications with WSO are still slow – they, like us, have problems of members being willing to do service. They are still reaching out, but are slow. Heads up that, due to our time zone, the gatherings are at challenging times. The recordings are a much nicer option.

The next edit of the NZ Service Handbook is due to be presented to Conference 2025. A running list of edits has been kept, and the Board decided to present all edits next year. It was agreed that it would be better to wait, as even a minor edit makes the current Handbook obsolete, and any physical copies are then out of date. More substantial edits may come to light in the coming year which make an update more justified.

The electronic copy of the Handbook is in a very good clean state and this needs to be safeguarded in further editing and by a new Literature Chair.

### *Answers to Questions*

- What does “very good clean state” refer to? Over the years, members had done updates using different formats and fonts, without an overall view of what the NZ Handbook was. With significant editing work by a member, it’s currently in a clean state (noting that going between Mac and PC can cause problems). It would be prudent for the next editing member to talk with the previous member before starting to edit. The separate service folder guidelines are now part of the Handbook. As with WSO Service Manual, it’s good to keep a record of all suggested edits as we go.
- Is there a process with changing literature? Yes, we have literature committee who are in charge of editing the NZ Handbook plus any other New Zealand specific CAL. It is extremely important. All edits must come through the literature committee.
- Discussion: agreed that roles are more appropriate than first names (principles above personalities). All names will be removed from the Summary other than the author of the reports and the list of members attending Conference.

## **Membership Survey Report**

**Kirsten W**

I am very pleased with the survey and what it tells us. I would like to acknowledge the work that the taskforce members did to take the raw data and turn it into an easily accessed set of results. It was both a useful survey and useful response pool. It was good to use an online response platform that could extract all respondents’ responses including verbatims.

Regarding the questions on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), we can confidently say our members are severely affected by upbringing and the disease of alcoholism. Most of our respondents reported multiple ACE. 99% responded positively that attending Al-Anon had improved their mental health.

We have valuable input from respondents on ways to keep people coming to meetings as well as suggestions for public outreach.

The survey results showed that the majority of our members come to Al-Anon through the suggestion of family and friends (who may or may not be AFG members). The next biggest category was through Alcoholics Anonymous (approx. half of the number).

The survey shows respondents often sought help from counsellors though were not referred to Al-Anon Family Groups. There is some improvement for newer members, so that may mean we are getting the message out there better than we were.

Framing the questions differently is recommended for the next membership survey.

## **AA Convention Committee Report**

**Di D**

### **Overall Convention Report**

The AA Convention host planning committee (HPC) connected with the Area Four Delegate towards the end of 2022. In March 2023 it became apparent that communication from AA inviting Al-Anon and Alateen participation had not gone through the correct channels (i.e. via the [generalsecretary@al-anon.org.nz](mailto:generalsecretary@al-anon.org.nz) email address) so this was quickly rectified. At the 2023 NZ Al-Anon General Service Conference, the Area Four Delegate was voted as Convention Chair. The theme suggested by Area Four ‘Together we can make it’ was also approved (noting that the AA Convention theme was ‘One Day at a Time’).

Following Conference a committee was formed made up of local Hawke's Bay members, Area Delegates from around NZ, and volunteers. Committee meetings were held at least monthly from July 2023 through to February 2024. These face-to-face meetings were online via a platform with a strict 1-hour duration. Area Four set up an online folder which Committee members accessed enabling the saving of meeting minutes, flyer drafts, publicity documents etc.

There were 65 Al-Anon Members and seven who identified with both fellowships, who attend the Convention; making the split approximately 80% AA and 20% Al-Anon.

### *Overall Convention Reflections*

- 1) It was very valuable reading previous Al-Anon Convention reports in all previous NZ Conference summaries ([al-anon.org.nz/members/conference-summaries](http://al-anon.org.nz/members/conference-summaries)) and the NZ Al-Anon Alateen Service Handbook 2022.
- 2) Having both the Chair and a committee member both attend AA HPC committee meetings was helpful.
- 3) When doing a site visit, consider members with disabilities and negotiate with AA to ensure Al-Anon and Alateen rooms are accessible for those with mobility limitations. Also consider what might be hazards and find a way to mark them (e.g. we used blue tape to highlight potential trip hazards).
- 4) Negotiate with AA HPC that the Al-Anon rooms are sufficient in size; aiming for a sharing meeting room that can accommodate 80+ and a workshop room that can accommodate 30+.
- 5) Ensure that all Al-Anon and Alateen rooms have air conditioning, as well as the public meeting room.
- 6) Passing the basket around at the end of each sharing meeting was extremely worthwhile for raising funds for NZAGSO.
- 7) Little was provided as way of koha for the shuttle bus between the airport and venue; in future remind Al-Anon members to be self-supporting by giving a donation, as requested.
- 8) Consider having a first aid kit including blood pressure monitor; check that a defibrillator is onsite or nearby.
- 9) Consider having Newcomers packs at the Al-Anon sharing meetings to give to AA members who are attending their first Al-Anon meeting.
- 10) Some members who were Chairs at sharing meetings were unable to attend at the last minute. Fortunately the Convention Committee Chair had asked members to arrange their own backup Chairs which saved both time and stress.

### *Convention Literature and Display Officer Report*

- A literature order was generated with input from the committee (e.g. How Al-Anon Works ordered as a gift for the Serenity Countdown) and the NZAGSO Office Manager who provided information from previous Conventions and the current year's sales to give an up-to-date idea of what literature had been sought after.
- Literature table opening times were organised once the programme had been confirmed.
- The literature table was open Friday afternoon following the 5.30 pm Convention Opening (thus allowing for any training or meeting of volunteers); 7.30-8.30 am both Saturday and Sunday; before, between and after each meeting until dinner time when it was closed for the night.
- We had enough volunteers for two volunteers/session and each session was approximately 30 minutes each. Names, emails and contact numbers were kept and volunteers were sent a copy of the roster the week leading up to the Convention.
- There were last minute changes, with some volunteers no longer able to attend.
- \$198.40 of pamphlets were provided free to AA, Alateen, and Al-Anon attendees and a member of the public. The National Public Outreach Coordinator has agreed to fund this from the national budget.

### *Literature and Display Officer Reflections*

- 1) Depending on location of the Literature, consider having a larger poster displayed on the registration tables and on the door, to advertise the location more directly.
- 2) People were keen to just browse and see what literature was available - it may be time to reassess what our members are seeing in our meetings, libraries, and Assemblies and making the literature more available to them.
- 3) Pamphlets were provided free to interested attendees – consider a way of recording what literature was given away and discuss this with National Public Outreach Coordinator prior to Convention.

### *Convention Publicity Officer Report*

- We created an attractive digital "flyer" for sending member-to-member via chat groups.
- We designed an Al-Anon timetable brochure and related posters for the weekend itself.
- An A6 timetable was created for attendees to read from within the lanyard long with a laminated A3 of the brochure 'inner page' for the registration desk, in the room, and on the literature table.

- We created an electronic invitation which was emailed to Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand local community mental health teams, Addiction Services, Springhill and Health Hawke's Bay primary health organisation. Health Hawke's Bay distributed it via their weekly communication to Hawke's Bay general practices.
- A press advertisement was placed in the Hawke's Bay Today newspaper advertising the public meeting.
- Convention info was sent to WSO, UK & Eire GSO and Australia GSO using their respective website contacts.
- Al-Anon bookmarks (Just for Today or Just for Tonight) were available on the registration desks, free to all attendees. These were well received, as AA do not have bookmarks as part of the CAL.
- The total cost for publicity was \$807.75.
- The big-ticket items, funded by the National Public Outreach budget were:
  - \$373.75 for press advertisement
  - \$350 for bookmark gift
  - \$70.50 for A3 posters and A6 timetables.

### Publicity Officer Reflections

- 1) Contacting other GSOs, as suggested as a task in the NZ Handbook, can work.
- 2) AA used a great publicity tool: they had A4 posters on each meeting room door that had the times and topics for all meetings or workshops in that room, held in a clear plastic re-usable folder. Consider this at future Conventions, as it is much easier than popping up a 'now and next' poster in every break!
- 3) Ensure that the Al-Anon rooms are clearly marked and visible. Al-Anon had a separate building on Woodford House, and it did not stand out as being Al-Anon. We could have done more to decorate the building (we did have some balloons put outside on the railings), and we eventually put some flyers up in the seating areas directing people to the building.

### Convention Treasurer Report

| <b>Income</b>                         | (Notes) | \$        | \$              |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|
| NZAGSO float                          |         | 200.00    |                 |
| NZAGSO freight                        |         | 132.00    |                 |
| Fundraising                           |         | 760.00    |                 |
| Literature                            | (1)     | 2,331.15  |                 |
| AA% of surplus                        |         | 1,491.30  |                 |
| Tradition Seven (financial donations) | (2)     | 1,317.45  |                 |
| <i>Total Income</i>                   |         |           | <i>6,231.90</i> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                       |         | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$</b>       |
| Freight                               | (3)     | 391.20    |                 |
| Printing                              |         | 117.90    |                 |
| Stationery                            |         | 61.75     |                 |
| Alateen                               |         | 173.00    |                 |
| <i>Total Expenses</i>                 |         |           | <i>(743.85)</i> |
| <b>Available funds</b>                |         |           | <b>5,488.05</b> |

| <b>Notes</b>                                                                                      | \$         | \$                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| (1) Literature sales                                                                              |            |                   |
| Literature supplied (Invoice 8687)                                                                | (4,976.65) |                   |
| Literature returned (Invoice 8841)                                                                | 2,403.85   |                   |
| <i>Literature purchased</i>                                                                       |            | <i>(2,572.80)</i> |
| Convention account literature revenue                                                             | 2,331.15   |                   |
| B32 How Al-Anon Works for serenity countdown                                                      | 23.00      |                   |
| K10 Newcomer's Pack (x3)                                                                          | 14.25      |                   |
| K18 Alateen Newcomer's Kit (x1)                                                                   | 6.00       |                   |
| <i>Literature sold and gifted</i>                                                                 |            | <i>2,374.40</i>   |
| <b>Literature balance (unpaid sales – gifts)</b>                                                  |            | <b>(198.40)</b>   |
| (2) Seventh Tradition<br>includes \$373.15 expenses paid by committee members but not reimbursed. |            |                   |
| (3) Freight expenses                                                                              |            |                   |
| Misc. merch sale, A6 programmes                                                                   | 18.00      |                   |
| Literature freight                                                                                | 132.00     |                   |
| Return (est. 50% of outward)                                                                      | 66.00      |                   |
| Merchandise to Area Eight (for next Convention)                                                   | 175.20     |                   |
|                                                                                                   |            | 391.20            |

### *Treasurer Reflections*

- 1) NZAGSB consider setting up a Convention bank account. The office manager could then provide transaction information to the Treasurer to enable reporting.
- 2) Consider hiring an EFT-POS machine. Although we did provide a lot of information to members making online payments, we found that the reference fields were not usually completed as requested so it became a challenge to reconcile online payments to record sheets (especially where purchasers had kindly rounded up payments to include a Tradition 7 contribution).
- 3) AA were cashless at the 2024 Convention. Al-Anon banked \$1,149 in cash (notes and coin). This was close to 30% of the takings over the weekend; consider retaining cash payments as an option.
- 4) Committee members are extremely generous with their time and resources, so consider asking them to inform the Treasurer of all their expenses they have incurred. Unclaimed expenses may then be recorded as Tradition 7 contributions.
- 5) We have recorded some of the expenses that were paid by NZAGSO in the Convention Summary (e.g. freight for literature). We have not included other Convention-related expenses met by NZAGSO (e.g. public outreach expenses) or the sponsored Alateen participant (funds that were collected from Groups to sponsor Alateens). Consider incorporating these into the Conference Summary.
- 6) If the intention of the Board is that the float is to provide notes and coins to facilitate cash transactions for the sale of literature and merchandise, then \$200 is sufficient. The Committee had a float of \$100 on each of these tables. If the float is intended as an ample reserve for the Convention Committee, then it would benefit from review. Many of the Committee's expenses (\$568.65) were incurred prior to the Convention, and relied on Committee Members covering these until after the Convention. We suggest an ample reserve of \$500 to be held in the proposed NZAGSO Convention account.

### *Convention Hospitality Officer Report*

- The Al-Anon, which includes Alateen, registration desk was arranged with the AA HPC to be close to the AA registration desk.
- At the time of registration, the attendee was provided with a lanyard, Al-Anon programme (also provided to AA registrants via the AA registration table) and an Al-Anon bookmark.
- During registration details on the lanyard were checked against a master list.
- Committee members bought tablecloths for the sharing meeting chair table and merchandise tables.

### *Hospitality Officer Reflections*

- 1) Asking people to assist on the registration table as they registered was worthwhile for filling empty shifts on the volunteer roster.
- 2) Having the sharing meeting theme on the white board (above with balloons around it) was extremely helpful. Many looked at this during their sharing to keep themselves on theme.

### *Convention Merchandise Report*

- The fundraising table was located within the building used for Al-Anon meetings, and within the sharing meeting room. It was set up on Friday, but only open for sales on Saturday.
- Some AA members did arrive Sunday to purchase merchandise (apparently “Al-Anon has the good stuff”) but our table was closed.
- Remaining merchandise was forwarded to the 2025 Convention Committee.

## Merchandise Stock and Prices

| Item        |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Sale price per item       | Opening stock balance | Sold 2024                          | Balance |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Tea towels  | Light Blue                                                                                                                                                                                       | \$12.50                   | 2                     | 2                                  | 0       |
|             | Dark Blue                                                                                                                                                                                        | \$12.50                   | 31                    | 15                                 | 16      |
| Bags        | Blue - calico                                                                                                                                                                                    | \$15                      | 37                    | 4                                  | 33      |
|             | Black - jute                                                                                                                                                                                     | \$20                      | 32                    | 24                                 | 8       |
| Keep cups   | Keep it Simple                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$10                      | 22                    | 3                                  | 19      |
| Mugs        | Just for Today                                                                                                                                                                                   | \$10                      | 9                     | 2                                  | 7       |
|             | Serenity prayer                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$10                      | 3                     | 3                                  | 0       |
|             | This too shall pass                                                                                                                                                                              | \$10                      | 4                     | 1                                  | 3       |
|             | Easy does it, but do it                                                                                                                                                                          | \$10                      | 8                     | 1                                  | 8       |
|             | Live and let live                                                                                                                                                                                | \$10                      | 7                     | 1                                  | 6       |
| Coasters    |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$5                       | 11                    | 1                                  | 10      |
| Teddy Bears | small                                                                                                                                                                                            | \$5                       | 5                     | 1                                  | 4       |
|             | medium                                                                                                                                                                                           | \$5                       | 3                     | 2                                  | 1       |
|             | large                                                                                                                                                                                            | \$10                      | 4                     | 2                                  | 2       |
| Stones      | <i>Keep it simple</i> , Think, Keep an open mind, Let go and let God, <i>Easy does it</i> , One day at a time, Just for today, <i>First things first</i> , AFG symbol, <i>Large "love" stone</i> | \$4 each or<br>3 for \$10 | 40                    | 4 ( <i>italics sold one each</i> ) | 36      |
| Soap        | (handmade by member)                                                                                                                                                                             | \$6 each or<br>3 for \$15 | 24                    | 24                                 | 0       |
| Wash cloths | (handmade by member)                                                                                                                                                                             | \$6 each or<br>3 for \$15 | 9                     | 5                                  | 4       |

## Merchandise Reflections

- 1) Have a good look at what merchandise is already in the boxes, look at what sold and how much of those items are left before creating/buying any new items.
- 2) Some attendees will have been to recent Conventions, do they need something new to purchase?
- 3) AA requested that no raffles were part of the Al-Anon fundraising – check with AA Host Planning Committee what fundraising is acceptable.

## Alateen Convention Report

- AMIAS from other Areas submitted their AMIAS profile form to the Area Four committee to undergo a local approval process at an Area Assembly.
- Alateen subcommittee organised donations to be made by Al-Anon members to fund Alateen registration fees. Donations received totalled \$880. This funding is managed by GSO and is not part of the above Convention financial report.
- Two Alateen meetings were organised for the Convention:
  - One was attended by an Alateen.
  - One was a meeting for members interested in becoming AMIAS – two additional members attended.

# Conference Members 2024

## Board Members

| Service Role           | Name        | Term               |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Board Chair            | Tracy B     | 2nd year, 1st term |
| IAGSM Delegate 1       |             | 1st year, 1st term |
| Board Treasurer        | Tina McC    | 1st year, 1st term |
| Executive Budget Chair | Liz A       | 1st year, 1st term |
| IAGSM Delegate 2       |             | 3rd year, 1st term |
| Public Outreach Chair  | Rana S      | 1st year, 1st term |
| Alt IAGSM              |             |                    |
| Alateen Coordinator    | Paula B     | 1st year, 2nd term |
| Literature Chair       | Kirsten W   | 1st year, 2nd term |
| Board Member           | Robyn D     |                    |
| Board Member           | Sally-ann M |                    |

## Conference Support

| Service Role        | Name    | Term     |
|---------------------|---------|----------|
| Conference Host     | Jax C   | 1st year |
| Technical Assistant | Clark T | 2nd year |

## Area Delegates

| Area Delegate | Name        | Term               |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| ONE           | Diane W     | 1st year, 1st term |
| TWO           | Louren P    | 1st year, 1st term |
| THREE         | Renée S     | 2nd year, 1st term |
| FOUR          | Di D        | 3rd year, 1st term |
| FIVE          | Teena H     | 1st year, 1st term |
| SIX           | Helen P     | 2nd year, 2nd term |
| SEVEN         | Christina V | 2nd year, 1st term |
| EIGHT         | Angie M     | 2nd year, 1st term |
| NINE          | Chris W     | 1st year, 1st term |

# *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

