



Report to Areas B, C and D Southern Region - November 2006

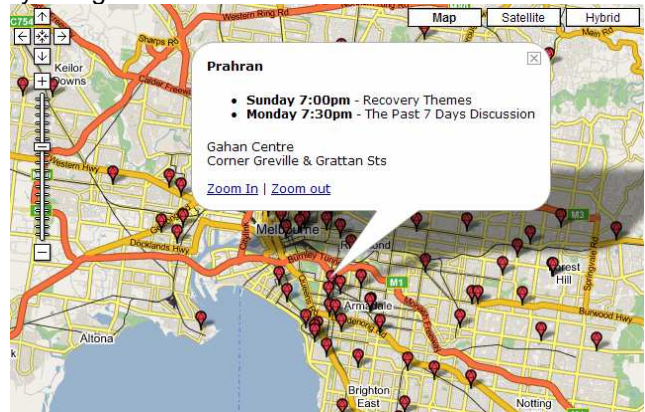
The AATimes website and publications are published by AA members under guidelines approved by Areas B, C and D in the Southern Region of Australia. (See guidelines <http://www.aatimes.org.au/aboutus/>) The guidelines specify that the editor should make a regular report. This is it!

These services are provided –

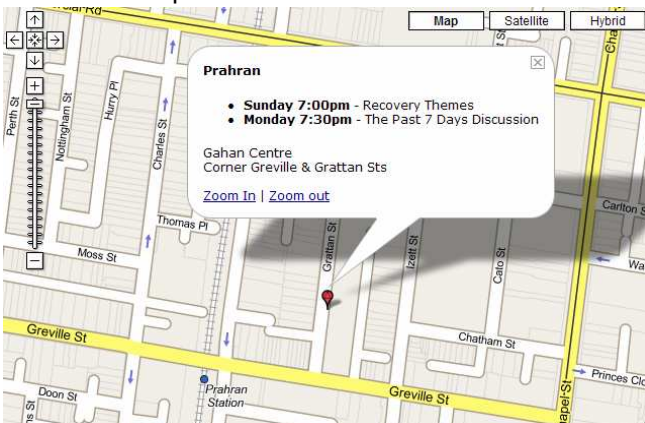
- Webpage – www.aatimes.org.au
 - Lists of meeting organised by day or by region
 - List of recent changes to meetings – new meetings and meeting closures
 - List of coming AA events
 - Programs and further information about weekend events
 - Information about Service Opportunities in Victoria
 - Links to other AA Websites – National Office, Central Office, VicYPAA, Group pages and others.
- Information available Mobile Phone – wap.aatimes.org.au (WAP) and i.aatimes.org.au (iMode)
 - List of all meetings
 - List of coming events
 - Other information – 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, Preamble, Serenity Prayer
- Publications
 - Weekly Newsletter emailed
 - Downloadable and printable meetings lists

New Feature - Map of Meetings

A new feature has been added to the website which shows a map of all the meetings in Victoria. It is implemented using a free service made available by Google.



Each venue is represented by a small red pin. You can zoom in and out and when you click on the pin, a list of meetings at that venue is shown. You can zoom in very close and even see the venue from a satellite photo.





Newsletter and emailing Flyers

The newsletter, which lists all the coming AA events, is delivered by email every week. Our subscriber list for the free weekly newsletter is now up to 280 groups and individual members (up from 220 in May 2006). We also email flyers about events when groups and event organisers request.

In September I upgraded the software that's used to allow people to subscribe to the newsletter. This has simplified the process as I no longer need to manually maintain the list. And members now have the choice to subscribe to get the newsletter plus the flyers, or just the newsletter.

New Editor(s)

I have been editing the AATimes for three years and it is time that I rotated off. But I have not been able to find anyone who can take on the whole task. It may look a bit daunting so perhaps there are some members would like to volunteer to take on just some of the tasks as an 'Assistant Editor'. Anyone interested would need to have a computer and access to the internet and I will provide training in the various procedures. Here is a summary of what would be required:

Newsletter Editor –

Tasks: make up the 2 page newsletter each week and email it out to subscribers.

Skills: This involves cutting and pasting the events from the website into a Microsoft Word document, so you would need excellent skills using Word. Attention to detail is important. The newsletter is then converted to a .pdf (I can give you the software to do this). The email function is also a simple task using an online mailing system.

Commitment: This task requires a commitment to get the newsletter out (on time) each week. This takes around an hour to an hour and a half each week.

Event Editor –

Tasks: Add new events to the website as they become known, and email out any flyers that are sent in by groups or AA organising committees.

Skills: Events are added through a simple data entry page on the website. *No programming or web design skills are necessary.* But you can be creative with the small ads for events that appear down the right hand side of the AATimes webpage. You need to have a computer and access to the internet.

Commitment: It takes just a few minutes to add each new event and these can come along any time during the week. Probably an hour to an hour and a half per week is necessary (maybe more during busy times like just before Christmas).

Meetings Editor –

Tasks: Maintain the list of AA meetings on the *AATimes Website* and on the *National Office Website*

Skills: Meetings are added, deleted and modified using simple online data entry pages.

No programming or web design skills are necessary. The fun challenge of this task is to be able to locate the latitude and longitude of each new venue so that it gets plotted on the map.

Commitment: It takes just a few minutes to add, delete or modify each new event and these can come along any time during the week. Some weeks there is nothing to change but other times you get a batch of them. On average, this job takes less than an hour per week.

Please talk to your groups about these opportunities. I must say I have found this a great way to be of service and to help groups carry the message. It can be done at home at any hour of the day (or night) and is on the 'cutting edge' using new technology.

Being involved with the AATimes has been very rewarding and, along the way, I've been able to meet – via email – members from all over the state. I've also been able to learn a lot about service as well as computer software and the internet.

If anyone has any questions about the AATimes, or any comments or suggestions for improvement, please contact me by phone or email.

Yours in service,

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