

WHISTLEBLOWERS AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

NSW BRANCH

P.O. BOX 269, Gladesville, NSW 2111



"All it needs for evil to prosper is for people of goodwill to do nothing" - E. Bourke.

NEWSLETTER, MARCH 1995

MEETING TIMES

"Sharing and Caring" meetings are on each Monday, at 8.00 p.m.

The next General Meeting is on Sunday, 2 April at 1.30 p.m.

The next Committee meeting is on Thursday, 13 April at 7.00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE-All meetings are held at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Campbell Street, Balmain.

LETTER FROM THE NSW PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone,

The last General Meeting was a "sharing" meeting and feedback from members who attended was that it was very good. Members had a chance to get things off their chests and got some useful tips and ideas for themselves. I would also highly recommend that members try to attend the "sharing meetings" on Monday evenings.

I would like to thank Charles Willock for the time and effort he has put into preparing letters in support of Lesley Pinson's "whistleblowing" on State Rail and for preparing an article for inclusion in the Lawyers Reform Society's magazine.

I would also like to wish Debbie Locke and other Police Whistleblowers success at the Royal Commission. I think I would not be alone in my admiration for their courage in giving evidence against malpractice in the police.

A few Whistleblowers have court cases and other forms of inquiry coming up in the next few months. They have said that they would appreciate any "supporters" coming along. If anyone has a few hours to spare on weekdays and is interested in showing their support by sitting in public galleries, please call Debbie Locke for times and dates. We are also hoping that the press will attend some of these which will help to increase the public exposure of "whistleblowing" issues.

One interesting matter which was recently brought to my attention by a whistleblower is that, if a person is receiving, or expects to receive, harassing phone calls, Telecom can arrange to have a "malicious call trace" put on to trace the calls. Forewarned is forearmed !

See you at the next meeting,

Regards, Bob Amato,
NSW President

FUNDING

At the last General Meeting a motion was unanimously passed that membership fees are deemed to be paid for the financial year 1 July to 30 June.

Although we do waive fees for people who are not in position to pay, we urge those who can afford the \$25 membership fee to send this in with an application form. Application Forms can be obtained from Vince Neary, the National Treasurer, on 02-449 6370.

Bob Hunter, who is sending letters to various organisations to ask for donations for the WBA, has received a number of sympathetic replies but no donations as yet. He would appreciate members' help if they could make a list of names addresses and phone numbers of organisations around their area who may be interested in donating to the WBA.

If anyone has any other ideas for raising funds or for increasing the number of members, please call Lesley Pinson on 02-365 1723.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Jean Lennane, our National President, has had an incredibly busy couple of months as she has become actively involved in the "No Aircraft Noise" Party and if this party is successful she could be taking up a seat in the NSW upper house.

Stan Karpinsky is currently compiling results of the ICAC questionnaires which have been returned. The results of this will be included in a submission to the ICAC Parliamentary Committee to reinforce a request for a Parliamentary Inquiry into the way the ICAC has handled the questions of (1) confidentiality and (2) protection for complainants. It is still not too late for people to return their questionnaires for inclusion in these results.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

We have invited Geoff Marr to speak at the next meeting. Geoff spoke to us a few months ago about his case. Five years ago, he was dismissed from Telecom after he threatened to expose corrupt practices within the organisation. A retired Supreme court judge has recently found that this dismissal was unfair and heavily criticised both Telecom and Telecom's Disciplinary Appeals Board.

SHARING AND CARING MEETINGS

A recent study by the Harvard Medical School in Boston has found that trauma is stored in a different part of the brain. The findings highlighted the need for people to talk about traumatic events. Putting these memories into words changed where they were stored in the brain and reduced the power of sensory flashbacks.

The Monday night meetings give you the opportunity to talk about your trauma or case and can be very good therapy. For those who are not traumatised they can use this period to learn how they best can handle their case.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At the last Committee Meeting we discussed the usual problems of lack of funding, time and resources and we desperately need more "active members". The jobs the Committee specifically needs to fill are Secretary (to take minutes at meetings) and Newsletter Editor and we would appreciate any offers of assistance in these and other areas.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

On Sunday, 12 March, Whistleblowers had a social lunch at "Sizzlers" in Mosman. This was enjoyed by everyone who came, including family and friends, so we are having another one on Sunday 16 April at 12.30 pm. This is just a relaxed social get-together so come along and make some new friends. We hope to see you there..

LETTERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to hear news and views from other Whistleblowers and branches and welcome contributions to our newsletter. A copy of this Newsletter is sent to whistleblower committee members in each state and territory with the hope that each will keep us informed about what is going on in their neck of the woods.

Ivan Ransom has kindly written the following poem for us:

We have blown the whistle !
We have cried: "enough" !
We have called a stop.
For this we are ostracised, so that no-one will hear us.
Doubts are cast on our sanity, so that no-one will listen.
We are given menial and pointless tasks, so that we will be discouraged.
We are falsely accused so that we will have no credibility.
We stand with all victims of corruption.
Together we are powerful.
We will fight for justice and truth.
It is the struggle that makes us strong.
We dare to protest
We dare to accuse
We dare to convict
and call on those responsible to take the new way.
We are the whistleblowers !

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NSW President	Bob Amato	0412 972 900
Treasurer	Bob Hunter	02 427 6261
Social Organiser	Debbie Locke	02 810 3526
Media Liason	Charles Willock	02 411 4420

Any one interested in becoming more actively involved in the committee would be very welcome.

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