



Newsletter

June - July 2024

#Kids need Kiwanis#

Kids are curious, lovable and hilarious. They are also wild, impatient and vulnerable. Kiwanis is looking out for kids in every corner of the globe with more than 550,000 volunteers who serve their communities through local clubs.

Remember – I can't do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good I can do!

Terrific Kids – Warrah

Sree and Naz attended Warrah Special School on Monday 29th July to present the three Terrific Kids awards for the half year. Unfortunately, 2 of the children were sick.

Sree gave a very nice introduction of Kiwanis before presenting the TK Award. Mathew's parents and grandfather were there and were very proud of Mathew's award. Thanks to Sree and Naz.



Terrific Kids – SEWS

On Thursday 4th July, Cathy and Steve attended Sir Eric Woodward School (SEWS) to present two children with Terrific Kids Awards.

Yash from Face to Face classes

Yash has grown significantly in his expressive communication in recent months and his funny, social side is blossoming. Since starting to use eye gaze, Yash is initiating conversation, requesting all sorts of items and activities and making his classmates laugh and smile. He is visibly proud of his new skills and enjoys the positive social feedback from his peers, something that was previously very challenging for him. His increased communication ability is assisting him to self regulate more effectively and he is starting to understand that he can have his needs met when he asks. Well done Yash, we are so proud of you.



Tiella from Distance Education Unit. We presented Tiella via online media in the school’s special “green screen communications room” with her proud mother there to support her.

Tiella is a dedicated, enthusiastic student. She participates in online lessons each week, greeting her peers and teachers with a smile. Tiella regularly attends cooking, online reading and social club. She patiently waits her turn, listens attentively and excitedly vocalises to share her understanding. Congratulations Tiella.

Together with the teachers we have supported Terrific Kids at Sir Eric Woodward School since 2014.

Terrific Kids are those who have been:-**Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive or Capable.**

Kiwanis Sydney is particularly proud of Yash who we have seen develop so much over the 11 years we have been making TK awards at SEWS. We were first introduced to SEWS when Yash’s mother, Namita, spoke at a Kiwanis Sydney meeting about Pallister Killian syndrome. Yash has been awarded TK five times over the years.

SEWS teachers and support staff are to be commended on their work with children like Yash. We got to see that even though children are non-verbal, the children can now use eye gaze to select from approximately 9 choices on an iPad screen. A row of cameras below the iPad interprets what choice the person has made on the screen, vocalises their choice and may go on to enact the choice. We saw Yash’s choice of “Twelve Days of Christmas” played for him to enjoy. We were also wished “See you later alligator” by one other girl in the class as we wished her goodbye. Screens can be set to music choices, food choices, greetings and even ask about any pains the child maybe suffering. What a fantastic use of technology!

Beanies for Elderly

At our Mother's Day flowers and cards presentation at Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home, they raised that several of the people suffered from cold heads and would benefit from beanies.

Cathy got out her trusty needles to start knitting. In talking to a friend at golf, she was also given 40 promotional beanies. To date we have 50 beanies.

Emily has taken 20 of these to Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home for distribution to those elderly who need them.



Rona has handed out 20 beanies to the elderly who need them at Bolton Clarke, Pemulwuy Aged Care Home. Could be a good 'hands-on' project for future years.



Induction of Rona

Rona Rivera Bongolta was inducted to Kiwanis Sydney by President Belinda at our June meeting. Welcome to Rona!

Rona is working at Bolton Clarke Pemulwuy Aged Care Home and lives in Greystanes.

Following are some abridged comments by Rona.

I am fortunate to have the support of my husband, Alfred Anthony Bongolto, accompanying me during my temporary study period in Australia. His unwavering mental, physical, and emotional support will undoubtedly be invaluable. Alfred and I are blessed with 4 children, namely Carissa Alyanna, Aldrich, Cheska Eunize and Ezekiel who have remained in the Philippines.

The health industry has always been my passion and in the Philippines, I was employed at HELP RESCUE 411 as an Ambulance Nurse/ EMT- Emergency Medical Technician and Critical Care Transport Nurse. This job has exposed me to ongoing learning and development in meeting the medical needs and rapport that is needed



in certain situations. An ability to communicate to multiple types of individuals is an essential part of our job and I wanted to improve this part of me by taking formal studies that concentrate on the technical side of the community work. Especially those individuals situated in some rural areas who are more sceptical to try new health approaches.

In Australia I have completed a Certificate III in Individual Support in 2023, and a Certificate IV in Ageing in 2024. Both courses were undertaken at Linx Institute College, Sydney Campus Australia.

I am practicing my new skills in the aged Care Industry, currently working in Bolton Clarke-Pemulwuy as a casual. I am also expanding my skills with another company in handling Disability Support.

I have decided to pursue a Diploma of Community Services which covers a wide range of topics, including communication skills, cultural competence, counselling techniques, and social policy. This diversity can make my learning experience rich and varied.

In this field workers support people to make change in their lives to improve personal and social wellbeing. I may also have responsibility for the supervision of other workers and volunteers.

While in Australia I wanted to Make a Difference. Being part of an organization dedicated to helping children can be a fulfilling way to contribute to positive change and make a real impact on young lives. I researched different organisations and thankfully I found the KIWANIS SYDNEY.

My mother (Imelda Waga) is an active member of Kiwanis in Division 4 of the Philippines. She introduced me to KIWANIS. Because of that, I am now a member of KIWANIS SYDNEY. I am grateful to all the members and the core group who are supportive and kind to me in this journey. *(Object #5 in practice)*

Joining this organization that focuses on helping children is incredibly rewarding. You get to be part of initiatives that directly influence young lives, whether through education, mentorship, advocacy, or providing essential resources. It's a way to channel your passion and skills into something meaningful, and the impact you make can resonate for years to come. If you have specific goals or areas you're passionate about, such as improving educational opportunities or supporting children's mental health, working with a children's organization can help you address those interests and see tangible results from your efforts.

Presentation to Fifi Spechler

Kiwanis Sydney donated to KCF (Kiwanis Children’s Fund) in honour of Beryl Spechler. As recognition of the donation KCF awarded a George F Hixson – Diamond Level Award in Beryl’s name.

We invited her daughter Fifi to our July meeting to receive the award which was nicely presented in a frame with the certificate and the medal.

The meeting was a commemoration of Beryl’s life and service to Kiwanis and other organisations. It was great for Fifi and members to relive moments where Beryl and Ed attended events such as conventions and projects.

Fifi thanked the club and presented Kiwanis Sydney with some of Beryl’s memorabilia such as Kiwanis pins.

Was a great meeting with everyone getting the chance afterwards to talk over a cuppa. We also had a cake.



Kiwanis International Convention

The Kiwanis International Convention was held in Denyer, USA in early July with approximately 1,500 members in attendance.

Australian Governor Elect David McNabb and Lieutenant Governor Elect Division 1 Joseph Fombason represented Kiwanis Australia.

There was a tribute to recently passed Ian Perdriau AM who was the first person outside North America to serve as Kiwanis International President in 1994-95. Kiwanis thanked him for his service, and in particular the IDD Project (Iodine Deficiency Disorder).

Some amendments were voted on by the House of Delegates with the most notable being to increase KI Dues from US\$52 to US\$77. Combined with careful budget practices and ongoing cost reductions, the increase will help reduce future deficits and ensure the organisation's long-term financial health.

"The Possibility Project" worldwide project was announced. It aims to raise US\$25m over 5 years to help 10 million kids through KCF. It will address areas of – Health and Nutrition in young; Education & Literacy in school age kids; Youth Leadership Development in older children.

Elected leaders for 2024-25 are KI President – Lee Kuan Yong from Kiwanis Club of Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia, KI President Elect Michael Mulhaul from New Jersey USA and KI Vice President Hope Markes from Hanover Jamaica. Lee Kuan Yong's aim is to build 420 new clubs.

Some other interesting learnings were the average age of Kiwanians is now 61 yo. Fundraisers being used by clubs include 1. Lego Building and 2. Grand Wine Tasting

KI 2025 Convention will be held in Pittsburgh 25th to 28th June 2025 with the theme "Forge the Future"

Bunnings BBQ & Pot

At our June and July Bunnings barbeques our donations "pot" was in aid of The Exodus Foundation. Rev Bill Crews heads this organisation which helps the homeless and needy in Western Sydney with free meals and other help. Our "pot" raised \$140 in donations.



Aktion Club – looking for members! www.aktionclub.org

Kiwanis Sydney wants to sponsor a new Aktion Club and we are looking for potential members. Members with a disability will be part of their own club to fundraise and perform work in the community to help others in need. The Aktion Club will also organise their own social activities to get to know other members and have fun.



If you know of someone who might like to be part of, or benefit from this club, then please contact us at sydney@kiwanis.org.au.

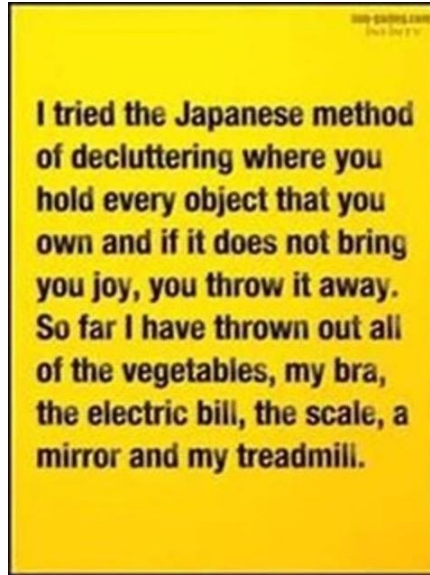
#Kids need Kiwanis!

Do you want to help kids? Kiwanis Sydney needs your help to continue our work in the local, Australian and world communities. Come along, obligation free, to one of our monthly meetings, or a Bunnings barbeque to

meet the team, or simply meet with one of our members over a coffee and hear about what we do and how you can help. You will meet new friends and get that warm feeling from helping kids in Sydney Children's Hospital, HeartKids, Sir Eric Woodward School, Nepal or others. Contact us at sydney@kiwanis.org.au

Hope you enjoyed the newsletter. If you have an article to include in future newsletters, please forward to sydney@kiwanis.org.au

Joke Corner



Events Coming Up: 2023/24

Sun 11th Aug 2024 – City to Surf manning drink station #2

Tues 13th Aug 2024 – Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Community Centre

Sun 18th Aug 2024 - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon

Sat 31st Aug 2024 – Father's Day gifts at Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home

Sat 31st Aug 2024 – Kiwanis Australia District Annual Meeting in lieu of Convention 2pm to 5pm

Sun 8th Sep 2024 – Kiwanis Sydney Social Event in lieu of meeting at 10.30am – Steve and Cathy's house – 30 Chifley Rd Morisset Park. Family and friends welcome.

Sat 14th Sep 2024 - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon

Fri 20th to Sun 22nd Sep 2024 – New Zealand South Pacific District Convention in Auckland

Tues 8th Oct 2024 – Kiwanis Sydney **Changeover** Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Community Centre

Sun 13th October – HeartKids Two Feet and a Heartbeat Walk– Kiwanis doing barbeque.

Sat 26th Oct 2024 - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon

Sat 23rd Nov 2024 - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon

Sat 28th Dec 2024 - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon

| Deserving Causes Kiwanis Sydney has helped | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick - Comfort Care Cases | ✓ | ✓ |
| Sir Eric Woodward School - Terrific Kids and gardening | ✓ | ✓ |
| Broderick Gillawarna School – Terrific Kids, Fun Day and Formal | ✓ | ✓ |
| Warrah Specialist School – Terrific Kids, loom support and sensory equipment | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lidcombe Public School - Back to school packs & sensory toys. Vege Pods for growing vegetables | | ✓ |
| Children First Foundation - life changing medical help for children (District Project thru' KADCF) | ✓ | ✓ |
| HeartKids Australia - research into children's heart disease (District Project thru' KADCF) | ✓ | ✓ |
| HeartKids Two Feet and a HeartBeat, Sweethearts Day, Super Heroes Day and local respite | ✓ | ✓ |
| Aussie Helpers – assisting farmers and their children in need | | ✓ |
| Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in Children (District Project thru' KADCF) | ✓ | ✓ |
| Share the Dignity Bags – for women and children in refuges or doing it tough at Christmas | ✓ | ✓ |
| Rainbow Children's Home Nepal - house and educate orphans | ✓ | ✓ |
| Harding Miller Foundation – part sponsorship of a Yr 9-11 girl for High School studies | ✓ | ✓ |
| Exodus Foundation Rev Bill Crews - helping the homeless | ✓ | ✓ |
| Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Street | | ✓ |
| Kiwanis Children's Fund - various worldwide projects – annual club gift | ✓ | ✓ |
| Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation – annual club gift | ✓ | ✓ |
| Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home – Mother's day cards and flowers | ✓ | ✓ |
| Street Care for Homeless Newcastle – provide clothing and food to homeless | ✓ | ✓ |
| Gunasekara Child Development Centre Sri Lanka | ✓ | ✓ |
| Operation Rainbow Cleft Palate operations by WA Drs in Cebu | | ✓ |

The Objects of Kiwanis International

- 1. To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.**
- 2. To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.**
- 3. To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business and professional standards.**
- 4. To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.**
- 5. To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.**
- 6. To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.**



Kiwanis Club of Sydney