



Kiwaniis[®]

CLUB OF SYDNEY

Newsletter

November/December 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 440,000 volunteers who serve their communities through local clubs.

Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference. – Kathy Calvin

Happy New Year. May you all have a safe and healthy 2025!

Share the Dignity - It's in the Bag

We made Christmas brighter for 154 women in need, with a bag filled with the essentials.

Wow! Congratulations to Kiwanis Sydney members.

Members had been shopping to find all the different items for the bags. These included deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, sanitary products, shampoo, conditioner, soap and special items of jewellery and the like. Cathy had organised a shopping list and allocated to the team.

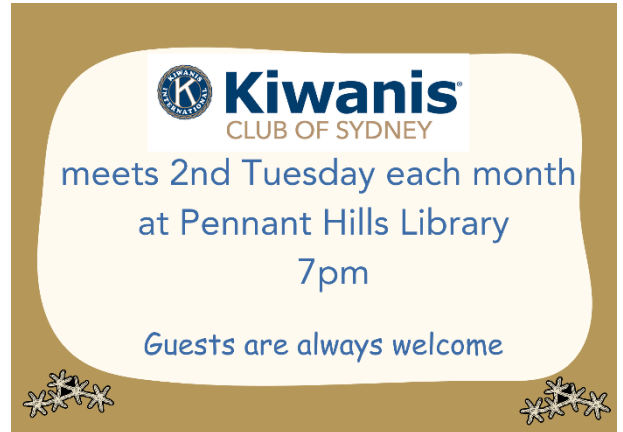
Sinchana and Anvita wrote 100 personal notes to include in the bags. Thankyou!

At our “meeting” of Tuesday 12th November we had a team of seventeen members and volunteer helpers come along to help us pack all the bags. Thanks to everyone for their help, although I think the fun of the night made the task easier.

We had Kavita and her daughter from “Share the Dignity” there to make sure everything was appropriate and of good order and their help on the night was much appreciated.

At the end of the night eleven people took a number of bags each and then dropped them into their local Bunnings which extended from Morisset to Dural to Balgowlah to Pymble to Carlingford.

I am sure this project will continue next year as the members and helpers could see how these bags would bring a bright spot to ladies in need on Christmas Day.





Terrific Kids (TK)

Kiwanis Sydney continues to support 3 schools with Terrific Kids awards after we started this project 12 years ago at Sir Eric Woodward School (SEWS). The schools we support are SEWS, Warrah Special School and Broderick Gillawarna School (BGS).

SEWS held their Presentation Day as 2 events. One for the Distance Education Service Unit (DESU) and one for the Face 2 Face students.

Cathy and Steve attended both these events in late November and presented one TK award at each.



Quinn F2F His bright, positive energy is infectious. He always greets each day with a smile and a cheerful attitude, spreading happiness to those around him. His enthusiasm is contagious, whether he's engaging in classroom activities or simply sharing a joke with teachers. Quinn's sense of humour and light hearted nature bring joy to the school, and his genuine warmth makes everyone feel welcome and valued.

Thomas DESU His commitment and enthusiasm for his schoolwork this year have been remarkable. His regular attendance at online lessons, social club, library sessions, and incursions demonstrates his dedication to learning and the SEWS community. Throughout the year, his active participation, attentive listening, thoughtful responses, and ability to stay on topic while patiently waiting to ask questions has improved significantly. Thank you, Tom, for being such a polite and friendly student. Keep up the fantastic effort.

Warrah held their presentations on 2nd December and awards were presented to 4 students who were graduating. Sree and Rajni attended to present awards which were very much appreciated.



BGS held their Presentation Day on the 3rd December and Jeff and Angelique attended to make the awards to two Terrific Kids.

Ibrahim for his dedication and enthusiasm to learning, consistently striving for improvement across all areas of his education. He demonstrates strong communication skills and engagement with peers.

Noah for his significant positive changes in his behaviour and diligence to enhance his communication skills through visuals and AUSLAN signs. Noah's increased happiness have fostered more positive interactions with both peers and staff, contributing to a more content and engaged Noah.

Thanks to Sree, Rajni, Jeff, Angelique, Cathy and Steve for taking the time to recognise these students for their self improvement.

Hopefully we can add another Terrific Kids School in 2025. Maybe Lidcombe School.



BGS Fun Day and Formal

Kiwanis Sydney members Heidi, Angelique and Belinda attended the BGS Formal Night at Revesby Workers Club on 13th December. This night celebrated the completion of Year 12 school studies for 4 graduate students. From all accounts it was a great night enjoyed by the students, their families, teachers and members of the community.

Kiwanis Sydney saw the start of a partnership with Bloomberg staff who helped us supply the barbeque at the annual BGS Fun Day on 17th December. Belinda and her team of six put in a super effort cooking and serving the sausage sandwiches on what was an extremely hot day. We hope this partnership with Bloomberg continues to help us serve more children in the community.

They served up 125 sausage sandwiches to students, parents and staff on the day plus handing packets of chips. The day is a great experience for the kids with the police there to show the kids their cars and what they can do. There was also face painting, jumping castles, fairy floss, petting zoo, bubble blowing and magicians making it a real fun day for all the kids.



SEWS VegePods

Some months ago we purchased two VegePods for SEWS. They wanted these to grow sensory and edible plants that they can use in classrooms, and also in their cooking classes in the DESU for distance education students. They can wheel these gardens around the school and into their media room.

Kiwanis Sydney also organised for Bunnings Belrose to supply the soil for the gardens and the plants.

While attending the recent Presentation Day we were able to view the VegePods and the teachers told us they have proven very successful.



Christmas Meeting

At our December meeting we heard from Governor Elect Steve about the need for growth in Kiwanis Australia. More members mean we can help more children. We also need to continuously introduce potential new members to replace lost members. Over the last 5 years Kiwanis Sydney has added 14 new members, but 13 members have left for various reasons through this time.

We looked at Paul Palazzolo's 5 aspects of a club that provides "Value for Members" :- hands on projects, fun events, known in the community image, leadership development and SLP initiatives. The members agreed that we are OK for one, two and four but could do more in three and five.

We agreed that for membership we would start the Two for Two initiative in 2025 with a few real prospects to approach already. Angelique and Heidi volunteered to be Membership Chairs.

The meeting finished with a cake to celebrate Cathy's birthday.



Bunnings Barbeque

Our November and December Bunnings barbeques were again successful fundraisers. It was great to have extra help on the midday shift where people were able to share the jobs and also to learn other tasks. Thankyou to Vijay, Satvik, Fifi, Mark and Sinchana for helping out.

The donations "pot" on the two days was for Back to School Packs for Lidcombe School which is coming up in January. We raised \$168 directly for this cause. Our initial contact with Lidcombe School brought the following response.

"Funding is very tight at the moment so any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Back to school packs are great and the students still use their backpack that you gave them this year.

We have many students coming into our mainstream kindergarten classes next year who are flagged as having additional needs but are unable to get placements into special education classes.

We are trying to get some sensory products into the kindergarten area to help with these students so they can better regulate and then continue to learn and access learning. The assistant principal of kindergarten has been told that we have no funds to offer her team to be able to afford any sensory equipment! So your email has come at a perfect time".

Rainbow Children's Home Nepal

Rainbow Children's Home (RCH) in Pokhara Nepal is an orphanage for about 40 kids. They support the children through to the end of their school years. Kiwanis Sydney has supported RCH for the last 10 years. From their recent newsletter Goma wrote an explanation their Deepawali celebrations...

"They recently celebrated the Tihar (Deepawali) festival at RCH. Tihar is a five-day festival, during which we light up our homes. Every house is decorated with beautiful coloured lights, which is why this festival is also known as the "Festival of Lights."

Each day of Tihar has its own significance:

- *The first day is dedicated to the worship of the crow (a black bird).*
- *The second day is for the worship of the dog.*
- *The third day honours wealth and prosperity.*
- *The fourth day is for the worship of the cow.*
- *The fifth and final day is called **Bhai Tika**, a celebration where sisters apply a 7-colored tika (a traditional mark) to the foreheads of their brothers to ensure long life and express gratitude for their protection.*

As part of the Bhai Tika ceremony, sisters create a special garland for their brothers made from a flower that wilts only after a couple of months, symbolizing the sister's prayer for her brother's long life. After applying the tika, the sisters give gifts to their brothers, and the brothers return the favour with money and gifts. This tradition helps strengthen the bond between brothers and sisters.

*In addition, groups of people perform **Bhailo** and **Deusi**, which are cultural dances. These groups go from house to house, and the homeowners typically offer money and food. Many adults play Bhailo and Deusi to raise funds for humanitarian work, while children usually play to collect money for outings and picnics.*

Every year, we celebrate various festivals, including Western ones like Christmas, and we give equal importance to all of them."





Member's Family Good and Sad Times

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Deen's father. Our thoughts are with Deen, Naz and the family in your time of loss.

Devan and Amri celebrated the wedding of their daughter in November in Malaysia.

Rona has returned The Philippines to be with her daughter who has cancer. Rona recently reported that her daughter is on the improve.

Several of our members have children or grandchildren who recently completed their HSC studies. We wish them all well, and hope they gain entry to tertiary courses that set them for their future.

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

**By replacing
your morning
coffee with green
tea, you can lose
up to 87% of
what little joy
you still have
left in your life.**

**YOU KNOW WHEN
YOU BUY A BAG
OF SALAD & IT
GETS ALL BROWN
& SOGGY?
COOKIES DON'T
DO THAT**



Events Coming Up: 2025

- Sat 28th Dec 2024** - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon
- Sun 12th Jan 2025** – Kiwanis interclub lunch at Hawkesbury King Tide Café – 12pm – all welcome
- Sat 18th Jan 2025** - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon
- Tues 11th Feb 2025** - Kiwanis Sydney Fun Night 7pm – Pennant Hills Bowling Club - **TBC**
- Sat 15th Feb 2025** - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon
- Fri 21st to Sun 23rd Feb 2025** – Kiwanis Division 2 Mini Convention – Tea Gardens Country Club
- Sat 8th Mar 2025** - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon
- Tues 11th Mar 2025** - Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Library
- Thu 13th to Sat 15th Mar 2025** – Kiwanis ASPAC Convention – Kaohsiung Convention Centre, Taiwan
- Tues 8th Apr 2025** - Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Library
- Sat 12th Apr 2025** - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon
- Tues 13th May 2025** - Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Library
- Sat 24th May 2025** - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon
- Tues 10th Jun 2025** - Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Library
- Sat 14th Jun 2025** - Bunnings BBQ Artarmon - 8.30am to 4.00pm – Reserve Rd Artarmon
- Wed-Sat 25th – 28th Jun 2025** Kiwanis Convention 2025 Pittsburgh “Forge the Future”

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 vege pods for 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	✓	✓
Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home – Fathers day gifts		✓
Street Care for Homeless Newcastle – provide clothing and food to homeless	✓	✓
Gunasekara Child Development Centre Sri Lanka	✓	✓
Hands Across the Water - helping 7 childrens homes in tsunami affected Thailand		✓
Triple B Care Projects - caring for children with burns, cleft lip/palettes, parasites Philippines		✓
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.**

These Objects were adopted by the House of Delegates at 1924 KI Convention in Denver, Colorado



Kiwanis Club of Sydney