



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Half-way through the Kiwanis year already! Time really does fly when you you're having fun 😊

Our changeover soiree at Jindalee Hotel was an intimate affair and we extend out thanks to our charity partners that were able to attend, Lynn and Neil from Let's Give and Umbrella, Penny from Muscular Dystrophy Queensland, Trevor from Centenary Christmas Carols as well as our political representatives Sarah Hutton, Jess Pugh and Milton Dick. The night also saw the presentation of the inaugural Ivan Bell Memorial Award. Our special thanks to Gillan and Christine Bell for joining us to present this award to Marie Simpson for her tireless work for Kiwanis and the community.

Our new Kiwanis banners have been hanging proudly around the suburbs and we extend our thanks to Martin in Councillor Hutton's office for assisting with this. We were honoured to be one of the recipients of Councillor Sarah Hutton's "Local Legends" awards at her Christmas party. We were presented the award "For your incredible energy and passion for making out community a better place. Your commitment to lending a hand and spreading positivity proves you're not just legends – you're local superheroes!" We also pass on our congratulations to Lynn Atkinson from Let's Give and Umbrella, who as well as receiving a Local Legend award, was in January named Citizen of the Year in the Lord Mayor Adrian Schinner's Australia Day award for the profound impact on high needs children and their families by providing essential packs filled with both necessities and joy. Her efforts and generosity have touched the lives of hundreds of families.

It was a smaller Brisbane contingent than normal at the mini conference at Tea Gardens in February but was still a great weekend of collaboration. Our own Ray Behn has agreed to take up the position of Lt Governor for 2026/2027 which is exciting news. Next year's event will be on the weekend Friday 13 to Sunday 15 February so mark your diaries now, especially if you haven't been before or if it has been a while since you have attended.

A reminder that the Kiwanis Club of Brisbane is registered with containers for change. Simply mention our ID number C11242552 to the attendant before they start counting.

I would like to thank everyone for the support shown to me over the two years I have been president. It really was a step outside my comfort zone and I am pleased with what the club has been able to accomplish, including the book boxes being placed & used in the community and the establishment of two Terrific Kids schools.

Until next time, Kelli

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## Committee for 2024/25

President:	Kelli Schuh
Vice-President	Ray Behn
Secretary:	Marie Simpson
Assistant Secretary:	Kerry Behn
Treasurer:	Mitz Wang
Directors:	Jane Louise Maxwell Trish Madsen
Newsletter Editor:	Trish Madsen

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### August 6<sup>th</sup>: Katie McIntyre Little Wings

Katie McIntyre is the Chief Operating Officer at Little Wings, a children's charity that provides free air and land transport to seriously ill children and their families from rural and regional areas. This enables sick children from these areas to access specialised medical services and treatments at the children's hospitals that are only available in major cities or towns. Thankyou Katie for your excellent talk. Katie is pictured opposite with Kiwanian Marie Simpson and Blake McClellan from Little Wings.



### Oct 15<sup>th</sup>: Leonard Thoma

Leonard Thoma from Germany, stayed with one of our members, Trish Madsen, whilst doing a 5 month internship with Herrenknecht, which manufactures tunnel boring machines.

Leonard's father has been very involved with the Kiwanis club of Baden Baden and as Leonard has helped at numerous Kiwanis events there, he was happy to give an overview of the club, their current projects, challenges and achievements. Thankyou Leonard for a very interesting talk. Baden-Baden club was formed in 1997 and has 18 members.

Projects:

Reading Support: for primary school students. They have volunteer tutors who help.

Plant for the Planet: involving children in tree planting in the Black Forest.

Safety Vests: providing safety vests for first graders (who go to school in the dark in winter) Over 1000 vests are donated annually.

Dolls: they have a project similar to our trauma dolls that we made in the past.

## Projects

•Plant for the Planet" Tree Planting: Over 100 trees planted by 60 children, with regular follow-up in the Black Forest

•Topic: Climate Change, Reforestation, Learning by doing





## Feb 18<sup>th</sup>: Caroline Salisbury, Threads across the Pacific

At our Feb 18th meeting we were fortunate to have Caroline Salisbury speak to us about her work known as "Threads Across the Pacific". Kiwanis Threads Across The Pacific supports women in Vanuatu with sewing machines and fabric. The program not only imparts practical skills but also nurtures a sense of community and shared empowerment. Kiwanis clubs' support extends beyond conventional boundaries, embracing diversity and contributing to the growth and prosperity of the communities they serve. The program also includes sewing workshops to empower women with disabilities. Thankyou very much Caroline for taking the time to come and speak to us about your awesome work.



# Kiwanis in the Local Community

## Local School Support

Kiwanis continues to support local schools, especially Darra State School and Durack State School. This support includes financial support for targeted programs, Kiwanis members manning Breakfast Club programs and the Terrific Kids Program.

We recently received the following letter of thanks for vouchers for school shoes that were supplied to a school that identified that as one of their needs.

"I received the gift cards today. Thanks again for Kiwanis generous donation, it really does make a difference. I'd like to share a short story about one of last year's shoe voucher recipients. The voucher went to a student who only owned an old pair of black school shoes that were too big for him and no socks. This made playing sport and competing with his peers impossible. With your voucher he was able to get a pair of runners and socks and compete in sporting events, which he then excelled. This is just one example of how your donation means the world to the students and families".

That feedback captures much of why we do what we do, why Marie and Graham continue to lead and organise our Bunnings BBQs, why Kelli and others reach out to schools in the area, etc.





## Pencil Case Project

The first meeting of 2025 saw Kiwanians packing around 150 pencil cases for those children who start the year without the basics they need to engage in learning.

In addition to providing needed supplies, the project helps Kiwanis build a bridge with local schools and identify other needs. Pat and Wayne kindly delivered the packed pencil cases to 9 schools in the south-west.

A positive spin-off was that this year, the Rockhampton branch of Ray's employer, Moore's, looked at assisting the Benevolent Society in Mt. Morgan with back-to-school packs.

In addition, Lyn Atkinson (Let's Give) donated 40 pencil case to the club to assist with our pencil case project. Kelli delivered these to Helping our Homies Ipswich which is a grassroots organisation that helps the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in the greater Ipswich area.



## Let's Give & Brisbane Youth Services

These two groups do so much in our community and Kiwanis continues to provide financial support, which for BYS, is usually in the form of restocking the pantry (photo LHS). Thank you to Kerry and Jane-Louise for their many shopping adventures. We were also delighted that Lynne Atkinson, who drives Let's Give, was the recipient of a Local Legends award at the end of year Christmas Party by local councilor Sarah Hutton (photo RHS). See also Page 9!



## Muscular Dystrophy

In early March, Kiwanis again helped with packing teddies, calico bags, socks and pens for their fundraiser, Red Bow Day. Dianne, Pat, Wayne, Kelli, Marie & Graham spent just under 3 hours on March 3rd (they're old hands now). Due to cyclone Alfred the selling of the Red Bow merchandise by All Hallows students, scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>, was postponed. The photo shows the team in action.





## Book Boxes

The book boxes have been a success and additional boxes have been built. President Kelli continues to drive the project, doing the lions share of making sure boxes are kept both clean and with books.



## Bunnings BBQs

Bunnings BBQs continue to be the main source of funds for Brisbane Kiwanis. We get a regular Friday BBQ which bring in profits of \$1300 - \$1900.

These BBQs continue to be organized and lead by Marie and Graham Simpson. Many, many thanks Marie and Graham for your tireless efforts.

## Australia Day BBQ

Kiwanis was asked to help at the Australia Day BBQ at the local Jindalee swimming pool.

This year, club members had the help of member's children, friends, and visitors including Chloe, Niamh, Ava, Ross, Lavina, Leonard & Brady. The happy crew are pictured opposite.



## Salvation Army

December 1<sup>st</sup> was the annual Salvation Army Christmas Carols. The weather provided its challenges, delivering torrential summer rain at times, but undeterred, our band of merry volunteers manned the BBQ which this year was relocated to RiverLife Baptist Church 17 Mile Rocks.



## Kiwanians Out and About

### RSPCA Tour

In early July (2024) it was a different meeting for members and their guests as we enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of the RSPCA facilities at Wacol before dinner at Que Huong at Darra, which was used as a filming location in the Netflix hit "Boy Swallows Universe".

Many thanks to long time Kiwanis supporter Jim Green and member Mitz for organizing the tour.



### River Cruise

Sept 14<sup>th</sup> saw many members enjoy an excellent day out on the "Lady Brisbane" for a lunch cruise up the Brisbane river. For once, we didn't cook the BBQ!

### Division 2 Conference – Tea Gardens – Feb 2025

Four of our members travelled to the Tea Gardens, NSW for this conference. As usual it was a great weekend with a lot of socializing, although we didn't bring the Sunshine Cup back with us. Both Kerry Behn and district Governor Nazeen celebrated birthdays during the conference.

We were delighted to learn that Ray Behn was nominated and accepted the position of L. Gov for 2026/27. Well done Ray – we know you will do an awesome job!





## Christmas Parties and Our Local Legend Award

Kiwanis was invited to and attended Christmas functions by MPs Milton Dick and Jess Pugh and local councillor Sarah Hutton. At councillor Hutton's Christmas Party, awards were presented to some of the centenary areas hard working, behind the scenes volunteers – Sarah's "Local Legends" awards.

We were delighted to be one of this year's recipients as was Lynne Atkinson from Let's Give who Kiwanis works closely with and supports where possible. It was an excellent evening and we were all very proud to be recognised as Sarah's Local Legends.

But it didn't stop there – Lynne was later awarded Citizen of the Year in the Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner's Australia Day awards for her work in the community. Congratulations Lynne!



In September it was lovely to catch up with international visitor Miguel Stevens, immediate past Governor of District Belgium Luxemburg while he and his wife were in Australia



## Back from the Brink

There is a very interesting story on the Kiwanis International website, called "Back from the Brink". It tells the story of the Kiwanis Club of Island Park, Long Island, New York, USA.

<https://www.kiwanis.org/back-from-the-brink/>

In September 2022 the club was down to 5 members out of which only 1 member was active.

That member, Karen Davis was convinced to give the club one last shot by the lieutenant governor of the division. The LG recruited a past president from a neighboring Kiwanis club who happened to live in Island Park and was willing to help. Their next task was to reintroduce Kiwanis to the community. The article then outlines how they went about rebuilding the club. The outcome - within months, a club that had been on the brink of closure had grown from one active member to 26.

Since then, the Island Park club has remained strong at 25 members, including local elected officials, a few corporate members and a strong core of area residents. A club on the verge of dissolution is now a thriving force for good — proof that with dedication, teamwork and a bit of faith, even struggling organizations can find new life.

Have a read - It is quite an inspiring story!



## Brisbane Club Achievements

For the 12 months to end June 2024, the Brisbane Kiwanis Club Members have volunteered 1131 hours and raised \$15,030.

Causes the Brisbane Club Supports	2024/2025
<b>4074 Community and Beyond</b> - local community run group holding events to benefit charitable organisations.	✓
<b>Brisbane Youth Service</b> - provides food, clothing and support services to children in need.	✓
<b>Darra State School Breakfast Club, Terrific Kids, Under 8s day</b>	✓
<b>Durack State School – Terrific Kids Program</b>	
<b>Heartkids Australia</b> - research into Children’s heart disease	✓
<b>Heartkids Queensland</b> – supporting families with children affected by heart disease	✓
<b>Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation</b> – provides grant funding for projects, initiatives and programs focussed on improving community health and wellbeing for those most in need and for improved life outcomes for the disadvantaged.	✓
<b>Kiwanis Childrens Fund</b> – various worldwide projects	✓
<b>Let’s Give</b> - supplies packs containing essential items to children in need.	✓
<b>MD Queensland</b> -dedicated to people who live with muscular dystrophy and similar conditions and their families, throughout all of their lives.	✓
<b>Micah Projects</b> – a not-for profit social justice organisation that has a range of support projects.	✓
<b>Miraa House</b> - a learning life skills centre for women aged 17 and over with an intellectual disability	✓
<b>RSL Centenary Branch</b> - offering advice and support to all current and former Australian Defence Force members and their families.	✓
<b>Salvation Army</b> - provides social services without discrimination to members of the community	✓
<b>The Hut, Inala: Inspire Youth and Family Services</b> – providing a safe place for kids, bringing them in off the streets.	
<b>Helping our Homies, Ipswich:</b> Provides meals and other necessities to the homeless and less fortunate	✓