



# Australian\* Kiwanian\*

Official Newsletter of KIWANIS AUSTRALIA DISTRICT

[www.kiwanis.org.au](http://www.kiwanis.org.au)

JUNE 2025



Kiwanians are very familiar with our regular Bunnings Barbecue fundraisers – one of our main income sources these days. Glenelg Club members are shown here during a shift changeover. On duty are Marilyn Mitchell, Brett Day, Marilyn Chandler, Peter Zander and Bob Sitters.

Sydney Kiwanians were really into the Jungle theme at the 2025 Div 2 Mini Convention. Read about this year's fun and games on p.12-13.

# Kiwanis





## FROM THE GOVERNOR

Well, this Kiwanis year as Governor has begun to take on a slightly different slant for me, over recent weeks to what I envisaged at the start of 2025. I still fully intend trying to honour an early commitment for more Club visits where possible, although a modified health landscape may dictate outcomes there. As I write this, I'm still awaiting the results of tests to determine a medical 'plan of attack' which hopefully won't affect me being able to fly to US for Convention. Fingers Xed on that one.

There's actually a good sized contingent due to head for Pittsburgh late June – a considerable improvement on our District's efforts for Denver in 2024. The dollar has even poked its head above 64c, and that's further encouraging news.

Now that Sydney Club has been confirmed as a Top Ten finalist in the KI Signature Project, in similar style to Glenelg last year, it would be really fabulous to gain a podium when winners are announced at Convention Breakfast in front of a worldwide audience. Sydney's submission for their compassionate work with Comfort Care Cases based at Sydney Hospital is certainly a worthy entry in the contest.

On an even better note in Adelaide, Athelstone Club was possibly staring down the barrel of maybe going into recess. But thanks mainly to the efforts of District Secretary-Elect Kavitha, an influx of new members and a Board restructure has seen that scenario

averted. And in fact Past Governor Ash along with Lt Governor Mike Hepple were able to attend a recent meeting where some of these new Kiwanians were introduced to what our organisation is about. It's really encouraging to hear of such progress and at a zoom meeting last month, KI CEO Paul Palazzolo admitted to being encouraged about the efforts being made in this direction.

The 2025 ASPAC Convention held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan mid-March was a worthy followup to Australia District's ASPAC held in Adelaide last year. The gathering in Taiwan was notable for a good-sized number of Australian Kiwanians attending (both the Training component and Convention-proper) – a fitting tribute to this 2025 ASPAC marking the fiftieth anniversary of these Conventions. Read up on ASPAC on page 23. Next year's Convention is scheduled for Manila in the Philippines – would be well worth attending!

Back to KI news, the work by Bob Sitters in helping to keep the Possibility Project at the forefront of fundraising efforts is admirable since this venture was launched at 2024 Denver Convention, with its ambitious but achievable goal of raising US\$25 million over a five year term.

Just remember, we're all proud to be part of a global 180,000 member organisation in 85 nations, with the aim of improving the world one child and one community at a time.

There's lots of good Kiwanis reading in this AK and two items I would especially recommend are the Diamond Anniversary for Past Governor Norman Ford and Hazel. Also, do read the back page feature on Adelaide Hills Club and their Kiwanis Book Shop. Those people continue to do marvellous work.

Yours in Kiwanis

DAVID McNABB

District Governor 2024-25



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## KAD BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE



Governor  
**DAVID  
McNABB**



Governor-Elect  
**STEVE  
HUGHES**



Immediate Past  
Governor  
**IAN RANDALL**



Secretary  
**SUE  
KIMBERLEY**



Treasurer  
**PETER  
ZANDER OAM**

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS 2024-2025



Division 1  
**JOSEPH  
FOMBASON**



Division 2  
**NAZREEN  
HAMEED**



Division 6  
**JOSEPH  
FOMBASON**



Division 7  
**TIM  
DAWES**



Division 8  
**LOUISE  
HEYWOOD**



Division 10  
**MIKE  
HEPPLE**



**OKAY, EVERYONE.- FOR 2025 WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS WITH A FACE-TO-FACE DISTRICT CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION IS OPEN, SO DO KEEP THE DATES AUGUST 28-31 FREE.  
MAKE A HOLIDAY IN NORTHERN VICTORIA, AND JOIN IN THE FUN!**



# Kiwanis

**REGISTER  
NOW!!!**



## **KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION 2025**

**August 28 - 31 Echuca - Moama**

**Venue - Moama Bowling Club, 6 Shaw Street, Moama**

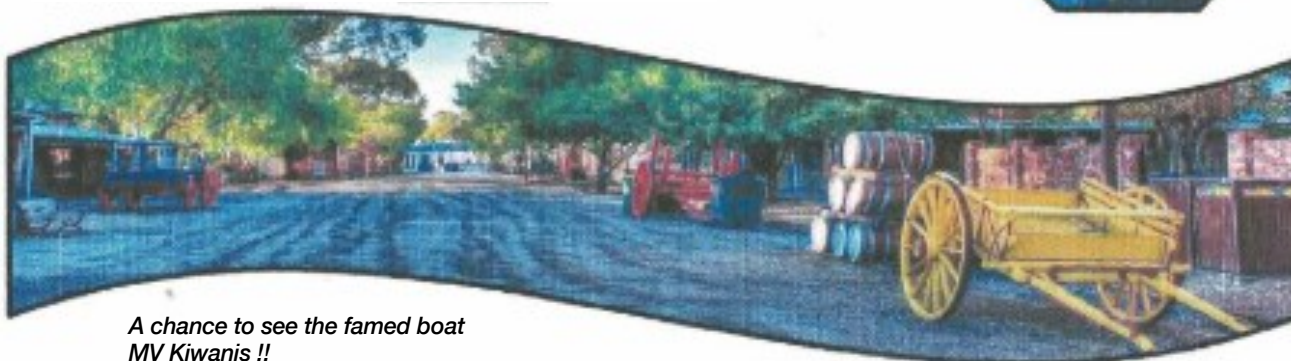
All aboard for the 2025 Kiwanis Convention in Echuca/ Moama.

Come and join Kiwanis Members from all over the Australia. Join our workshops and share your thoughts and ideas with like minded people looking to make the future of the Kiwanis greater than ever. Listen to our speakers tell about their experiences and how Kiwanis helps benefit in other areas.

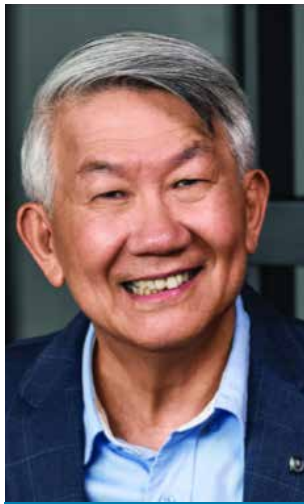
Explore our beautiful border towns by catching a ride on one of our restored paddle -steamers or travel back to the past by strolling down our port area. Drop by the Beer Shed and take a specialised tour of our biggest man cave, or visit one of our wineries for a taste of our local products. There is so much to offer with friendly locals ready and willing to tell of any special locations that must be experienced. For more information on our tourist attractions and a list of our accommodation available please visit [www.echucamoama.com](http://www.echucamoama.com)

Details for registration to follow soon

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For further information please contact our  
Lieutenant Governor Division 7 Tim Dawes on 0494 363 730



*A chance to see the famed boat  
MV Kiwanis !!*



**KIWANIS  
INTERNATIONAL**



There's still time to register for 2025 International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but you'll need to be quick. The "traditional" ball game on Friday night is sold out, but places can still be found at most of the other events, including where Conventioners will be able to hear an address from Keynote Speaker Henry Winkler - or 'The Fonz' as he was known in his television days - in the Happy Days series that ran for a decade from 1974.

Winkler, a spritely 79, is a passionate advocate for children with learning challenges (fits our mantra of serving children of the world), his mission is embedded in a personal journey with undiagnosed dyslexia. Be sure not to miss this Convention highlight.

International President Lee Kuan Yong (left) has as one of his main slogans, the phrase Build Nurture Retain, which in many ways is self explanatory. It's by these precepts we should move forward in our Kiwanis journey - that's up to all of us.

As a brief background, Kuan Yong first came to the attention of us Kiwanians in Australia District when as Trustee he came over from Malaysia to attend the 2013 District Convention held at West Lakes, Adelaide, which was jointly organised by Divisions 3, 8 and 10 in South Australia.

Kuan Yong has been a great ambassador for Kiwanis over the past 12 years, and in four months time will be looking to hand over the KI President role to President-Elect Michael Mulhaul of New Jersey. Michael has been ramping up his involvement at KI senior level in preparation for being installed as President, which is the usual "pecking order". Michael will be followed by past Trustee Hope Markes of Jamaica.

Following Hope is . . . . watch this space. . . . depends on results of the important election of Vice-President at this year's Convention. See below for snapshots of the four VP candidate for 2025-26.



### ***CATHY SZYMANSKI***

A past Trustee from Pennsylvania District, Cathy, 61, (left) can be described as a livewire Kiwanian with extensive experience in our organisation. She has been District Governor and alongside current Pennsylvania Governor Tom Harp, Cathy is co-Chair of the New Club Opening Committee. She is a business owner with several years experience in financial management and strategic planning. She also has extensive involvement with Kiwanis Key Clubs in Pennsylvania.

### ***CHUCK FLETCHER***

From Frankfort, Kentucky, we present Chuck Fletcher - a 17-year Kiwanian who has held positions of Vice-President, President, Lt Governor and also Governor (2015-16). A past Trustee, he supports Kiwanis Children's Fund and in Bert West's year as International President Chuck (right) was appointed Chair of the International Membership Committee.



### ***JACKIE SUE McFARLIN***

Another former Trustee, Jackie (left) hails from Othello, Washington and has been with Kiwanis since 2001. She is a George F. Hixson fellow, and a recipient of a (Key Club) Centennial Award, along with being a past District Governor of the Pacific NW District. Jackie has two children and five grandchildren.



### ***GARY JANDER***

From San Diego, California, we introduce past Trustee Gary Jander (right) who's been with Kiwanis for 25 years. He has held positions of District Governor, Lt Governor of California-Nevada-Hawaii District (Cal-Nev-Ha) - also Vice-President of Cal-Nev-Ha Children's Fund. Gary has two Walter Zeller Fellowships to his name and has two children with wife Donna (who is also a Kiwanian).





## PITTSBURGH SNIPPET

Many Kiwanians of "mature age" may recall in the early 1950s, that popular catchy Guy Mitchell song entitled: *There's A Pawnshop On The Corner In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*.

Guy Mitchell was quite a "hit" performer in the 1950s with numbers such as *Truly Truly Fair*, plus *Heartaches By The*



*Number, Rock-A-Billy* along with many others.

This melodic Pawnshop number becomes relevant to some extent during 2025 International Convention in (yes) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Seemingly, when Mitchell recorded this song with its melody typical of the era, publicists tried to find a pawnshop in that city, in a corner location, to spruik the song for publicity purposes, and in fact finally did unearth a suitable establishment. But it did take them a long time to find such a store!

As mentioned in the last AK, Pittsburgh has a claim to fame, having been the main base for the 1983 movie *Flashdance* starring Jennifer Beals.

Pittsburgh, in western Pennsylvania, is that State's second most populous city after Philadelphia.



## SYDNEY KIWANIS IN ACTION



The Sydney suburb of Dural, nestled between Baulkham Hills and Hornsby, has a Bunnings outlet, and this is where Sydney Kiwanians held a fundraising Mothers Day cake stall, with the added benefit of some great in-store publicity for Kiwanis. Well done to "the crew" in action.....



## HEARTKIDS UPDATE

At HeartKids, everything we do is grounded in three simple but powerful values:

- Courageously Kind – We lead with compassion, transparency, and care.
- Championing Change – We take bold action to create lasting impact.
- United Community – We believe in the strength of connection and shared purpose.

These values guide our mission to support every child, teen, and family affected by childhood-onset heart disease (CoHD), from diagnosis through every stage of life. With the help of supporters like Kiwanis, we are turning these values into action, every day, across the country.

### Hero for HeartKids

Hero for HeartKids is back this June, and HeartKids couldn't be more excited!

Hero for HeartKids is an initiative celebrating the courage and resilience of children and families living with childhood-onset heart disease (CoHD). By dressing up as superheroes, participants can show support and raise awareness.

Get your costumes ready for a fantastic month of fun as we honour the true heroes of our CoHD community.

Some heroes save the day, you can change a life!

To get involved in 2025, visit <https://www.heroforheartkids.org.au/>



### Stronger Together: Expanding Our Support Through Partnerships

HeartKids is proud to be building a network of trusted partnerships to ensure children and families affected by CoHD can access support wherever they are—and for whatever they need.

From hospital stays to mental health, sibling support, and school re-engagement, we're working with organisations like Heart Support Australia, Redkite, Missing School, and Little Dreamers. These collaborations allow us to wrap our arms around families through every twist of their journey, Championing Change by working together.

[heartkids.org.au/approach/partners/partner-services](https://heartkids.org.au/approach/partners/partner-services)

### HeartKids Connect: A Safe Place to Belong

When families feel isolated, HeartKids Connect helps them find community. This private, ad-free online platform is a dedicated space for people impacted by CoHD, whether they're parents, teens, heart adults, or bereaved families.

The platform is moderated, secure, and full of helpful resources and exclusive content. It's a digital home where lived experience is shared and understood, a reflection of our value, Courageously Kind, in the online world.

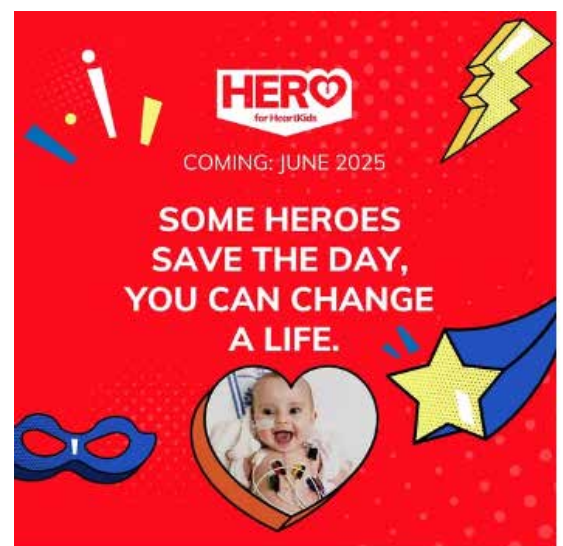
### Heart to Heart: A Connection That Lasts

Our "Heart to Heart" event in March brought teens, tweens, and siblings together for a magical 90-minute online gathering. With games, laughter, expert Q&As, and a live magic show, it was more than fun, it was a lifeline.

Hosted by TV presenter Luke Huysmans and featuring HeartKids' mental health and medical experts, this event was a reminder that while CoHD can be complex, community makes it easier to bear. Events like these are where United Community truly shines.

### Empowering Teens, One Step at a Time

The transition from paediatric to adult healthcare is a critical, and often scary milestone for teens with CoHD. Thanks to Kiwanis' support, the HeartKids Teen Transition Program is





helping young people aged 12-18 face this change with strength and knowledge.

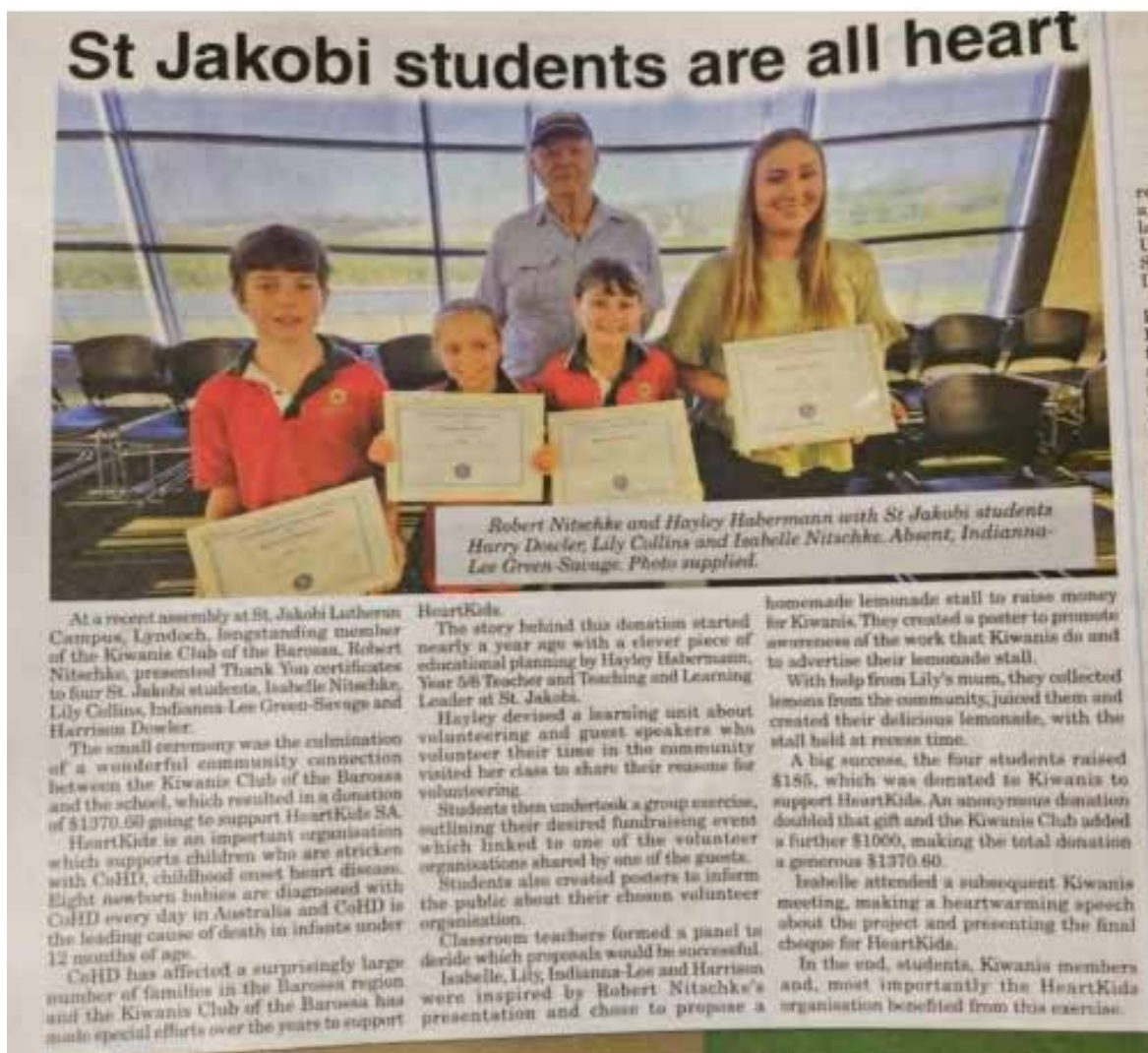
From hospital tours to youth events and tailored education days, teens are being equipped to take charge of their health journey. By reducing anxiety and increasing confidence, we're Championing Change, one young person at a time.

### A National Voice for Young Hearts

This year, HeartKids proudly launched the National Youth Advisory Committee (NYAC), a passionate team of young people aged 16-25 who are living with CoHD and shaping the future of support services.

From redesigning resources to sharing lived experiences and influencing policy, NYAC ensures young voices are heard and respected. It's a powerful embodiment of United Community, and it wouldn't be possible without the support of partners like Kiwanis.

(Thanks to Liam Maguire who helped with compiling this HeartKids item)



*This is excellent publicity for Kiwanis in the Barossa, and for Barossa Club's major project supporting HeartKids. The article featured in a recent edition of The Leader. Thanks go to Robert Nitschke, St Jakobi Lutheran School, Lyndoch, and Tony Robinson at The Leader (based in Angaston), for helping promote the Kiwanis message.*





**CHILDREN FIRST:**  
**Jessica Redwood**

## JESSICA'S JOURNEY TO TIMOR-LESTE

I wrote to you last edition of AK about my recent trip to Timor-Leste, where in partnership with the Queensland Children's Hospital, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and local surgeons, we worked to deliver life-changing surgery for 44 Timorese children and build the capacity of the local surgical team.

I also had the great honour and privilege of visiting some of the Timorese children we have treated here in Australia. You may recognise some of the faces in the picture below – Cristina (Tina), Zenilda, Fatima, Malik, Angela and Margareta. Thanks to you, they all received life-transforming surgery and are now thriving back home.

Seeing the impact after surgery and recovery is truly heartwarming. Positive force uplifts the children, their families, and the entire community.



Now, to answer the questions we're all asking – what's everyone up to?

**Malik** is as full of beans as ever but now he's running at full speed!

**Christina** is finishing school, doing incredibly well, and planning for what will be an incredible career.

**Fatima** is thriving – she's grown up so much and is about to start school!

**Zenilda** will return to Australia for a medical follow-up soon before returning to Timor to continue excelling at school. Nothing is holding her back now!

**Margareta** has finished university and has one more exam before she can start working and pursuing her passion as a teacher.

The biggest surprise of all – **Romario**. He is now in law school and excelling!

I was blown away to see their confidence, good health, and determination, which were even more evident and shining strong in their home context. They spoke about their lives with such positivity and introduced their entire families with such happiness. Then, in turn, they introduced me and talked to their families about Children First, shared their stories, and spoke of their experiences with so much pride, even though accessing surgery is an incredibly challenging time in anyone's life.

I was beaming with pride to see each and every one of them! I am sure you are too. Every child deserves access to safe, timely surgical care.

These smiling faces are proof of what a difference access to quality medical care can make, not just at the time of surgery but for that child's entire life. I heard about parents and older siblings who could return to work and school.

Because of the care and support of Kiwanians (and others), these weren't just transformed children; they were transformed families.

Thank you for your continued compassion and support. Like a pebble dropped into a pond, your care continues to ripple and flow outwards in more positive ways than you can count.

With heartfelt gratitude,

JESSICA REDWOOD

Chief Executive Officer



### KIWANIS CONTACT DETAILS

IAN RANDALL, Kiwanis Children's First  
Liaison Leadership Chair,  
0419 334 850 email [ian.randall@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.randall@bigpond.com)



## MORE CHILDREN HELPED BY CHILDREN FIRST

Kiwanians, thank you for your life-changing support: You helped save Elina. You may remember Elina from Zambia, who was introduced to you in the last (February) Australian Kiwanian.

She underwent life-saving surgery in Adelaide, and the results have been tremendous. Elina is now back home in Zambia and attending school – a long-held dream finally being realised thanks to kind people like you. Photos, right, show Elina before and soon after surgery



### Other Updates

As part of our efforts to help more children and make sustainable change, we conducted a pilot in April in Timor-Leste. Working with Queensland Children's Hospital, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and local surgeons at Guido Valadares National Hospital to provide surgery to children in need and train the local team.

There were so many children in need of surgery but one of the 44 children who received surgery as part of our partnership was little Marcio (right). Marcio had a large cystic hygroma (tumour), starting to put pressure on his shoulder, ribs, lungs, and spine. Because of the generosity and tenacity of everyone involved, Marcio underwent his life-changing surgery. When asked what he's excited about now that he doesn't have to stay at home inside, with a twinkle in his eye but no hesitation, he replied, "I can't wait to be naughty!" We can let him have a little mischief, don't you think?



### Samoa. Make a difference today, make a difference tomorrow

Did you know that a Kiwanis member, Norm McLennan, did something incredible just before he died late last year? Thanks to Norm, we were able to conduct a pilot project in Samoa in 2024 – providing surgery and training the local surgical team. This project supported 18 children to access critical surgery and trained eight members of the local surgical team. This year, we are working hard to raise the \$15,000 to keep this important project going.

With only two surgeons in Samoa, neither specialising in paediatrics, many children cannot access surgical care, leading to devastating consequences. This initiative supports children's access to surgery today, while directly addressing this gap, building local capacity and strengthening the healthcare system to provide ongoing, high-quality surgical care to Samoan children tomorrow.



Sidath is looking forward to his surgery in Australia, but he still needs your help. Sidath, 10, from Bhutan desperately needs complex surgery to remove a large tumour on his face – as you can see straight away from his photograph. Sidath's condition is critical, and it is essential that he comes to Australia for surgery as soon as possible.

Sidath's tumour is not only distressing but it affects the nerve that controls sensation in his face, causing him nerve damage and intense pain – and you can tell from his picture (above, left) that he has already lost the use of his right eye. To complicate matters, although Sidath's tumour is benign now, it has the potential to become cancerous if not removed. My team and I are working around the clock to get Sidath's visa and raise funds to get him here for surgery in July. Without surgical care, his future – and his life – hangs in the balance.

Please help and donate via our website <https://bit.ly/44K0lix>

If any of our Kiwanians would like to get involved with any of the projects outlined here, then please get in touch with me directly at [Jessica@childrenfirstfoundation.org.au](mailto:Jessica@childrenfirstfoundation.org.au) to discuss how you and your Kiwanis Club can contribute to this transformative work.

Warmest wishes,

JESSICA REDWOOD, CEO Children First Foundation



## GET ONLINE, WITH AUSTRALIA ONLINE

Are you keen but unable to get to your regular Kiwanis Club meeting?

AUSTRALIA ONLINE is probably the District's easiest Kiwanis Club for 'attending' meetings. Kiwanians who might be travelling Australia, or if their regular Kiwanis Club has gone into recess, this could be for you.

For "Grey Nomads", this club can enable them to maintain contact while on the road. We welcome existing Kiwanians who are keen to keep contact with fellow members from around Australia, and potentially worldwide.

Australia Online meets monthly, **second Thursday**, 7.00pm EST (check start time first) using the info below.

Please join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone by clicking the following link <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/173825077> You don't really need a computer, as you can dial in using your phone. Australia: +61 2 9087 3604. Access Code: 173-825-077. "See you" at a meeting soon!

### KIWANIS IS 'IN THE SADDLE'

Moorabbin Kiwanis have got behind Moorabbin Riding for the Disabled. The Kiwanis Club is now supporting the RDA financially and their assistance covers discounted dentist for all eight horses for a year, chaff and worming medication for the horses for a year. All these aspects are very expensive, so RDA really appreciates the help provided by Kiwanis.

RDA President Kate helps oversee ongoing care for these horses. Ian Randall has recently discussed the possibility of free books for their clubrooms from 123Read2Me. This initiative sees horse themed books being coveted by RDA - from guide books and instructions on looking after and riding horses, to novels involving horses. Which is most appropriate.

The photo below shows a perfect example in the RDA clubrooms of some horse themed books (being held by Kate) including *"Why Do Horses Wear Shoes"*. Maybe *"Black Beauty"* was in amongst those tomes!







# Newcastle AKtion Update



Not long before Easter, Newcastle AKtion members were able to take part in a most successful Karaoke Night at Charlestown, Lake Macquarie.

Everyone was able to sing their special song and afterwards there was a pizza supper which gave those attending a chance to rest their vocal chords!

You can tell from these photos, the Kiwanians attending really enjoyed the evening.



## THE aKtion pLEDGE

*We pledge to be loyal members of our AKtion Club, to form new friendships, and to serve our communities.*

## Adelaide Hills AKtion News



The Hills AKtion Club again took part in the annual Clean Up Australia event, where Barton Gawen brought along his dog and one of the AKtion members even found a pair of shoes amongst the "good items".

Assisted by some Adelaide Hills Club members, the garbologists met in the St Francis de Sales College car park on Dutton Rd, Mt Barker and headed towards Laratinga wetlands, in their quest to makes the Hills area tidier.



# DIVISION 2 MINI CONVENTION 2025

February 20-24 saw the annual Division 2 Mini Convention held at Tea Gardens, NSW and was again capably organised by Newcastle's Gail and Bryen Smith.

Mini Conv kicked off for most on Friday evening with a Quiz Night run by Belinda Hughes. All went well until an unexpected power outage halfway through the questions, but luckily eventually the lights returned and we were back in business.

Venue for Saturday morning's business session turned out to be different (being partly outdoors) but rather delightful and our Kiwanians were able to hear addresses from Governor David, Lt Governor Div 2 Nazreen, along with Governor-Elect Steve and Past Governor Tony, amongst others.







Above: Pauline shows her style during Saturday's closely contested games. "Umpire" Bob Funnell (our karaoke expert) with eventual winners, the Sydney pairing of Steve and Nazreen holding that coveted Sunshine Cup - they downed Governor David and Past Governor Ken in the grand final.

Elections saw Brisbane's Ray Behn (he's from Adelaide originally!) voted in as Lt Gov Div 2-Elect - welcome, Ray.

Bryan Saunders (unwell) was amongst apologies but Victoria was still well represented by the Gunns, also Jenny Bromilow who was a great help with serving dishes in the absence of Maxine McKinney (health reasons).

Following that were the traditional disk games where everyone joined in. The battle for that coveted Sunshine Cup eventually went to Sydney pairing of Steve and Naz. Some settling of dust came next, and then our Kiwanians started togging up for the evening's fancy dress fun night. There was a Jungle theme for this year and nearly everyone got into the spirit with some hilarious outfits. Mary Greenwood sported some amazing face painting as a zebra, while there were many variations on African (and other nations) wildlife.

The Smiths ran a much-appreciated bus shuttle service back to the motel, although some "fit folk" did walk the distance (thinking Tony, amongst others). Convention was rounded out with bacon & egg breakfast where Bob was in action as one of the chief chefs, before Kiwanians took their leave to head home. Looking forward to the 2026 Mini Convention already!



Above: Kerry & Ray Behn and friend.





# FIFTIETH ASPAC 2025

## MARCH 14-16

**Fresh from the success of last year's ASPAC held in Adelaide, Australia was quite well represented at 2025 Taiwan ASPAC.**

Attendees from Down Under included from SA - Governor David and Kerry, from Victoria Tony Gunn, NSW in numbers, including Governor-Elect Steve Hughes & Cathy, along with Lt Gov Div 2 Naz and Deen, and another from SA who was there for training - incoming District Secretary Kavitha.

Centred in the southern city of Kaohsiung which is the third largest population centre after Taichung and capital Taipei, this ASPAC was notable for marking the fiftieth anniversary since the first of these Conventions was held in 1985 in Hong Kong.

Taiwan (formerly Formosa) has now hosted ASPAC nine times and they went the extra yards in 2025 to ensure this fiftieth anniversary would be memorable.

At the evening banquets there was awesome entertainment including a powerful drum ensemble, and an outdoors pyrotechnic display with laser light augmentation that defied description.



While there were no Workshops as such, the business sessions at House of Delegates were certainly 'busy', with elections, reports, presentations and discussions on the restructure of ASPAC finances involving Kiwanis International. The latter involved input from our own Tony Gunn, along with the co-author Stewart Labrooy from Malaysia.

Next year the big Convention is in the Philippines, so pencil in that one.

*Left: Governor-Elect Steve during one of the sessions, with Tony and Kavitha.*



*A couple of scenery shots from around Taipei, including a Buddhist monastery (left) and a street scene where the main interest for Adelaideans was seeing wet roads, from actual RAIN ! Amazing.*







Left: Governor David with India Governor Khushwinder. Above: Tony Gunn in action, with Stewart Labrooy and Malaysia Governor Olivia watching on.

## THESE GEMS CELEBRATING DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

In this AK we are happy to acknowledge a magic milestone for Past Governor Norman Ford and Hazel. This wonderful couple from Rostrevor Campbelltown Kiwanis, in early April celebrated their Diamond 75th wedding anniversary.

The Fords, who both turned 96 earlier this year, joined Kiwanis in 1982, initially with Burnside Club, SA, and then switched to Rostrevor-Campbelltown, where they are Honorary members. There was an item about the Fords early 2024 in AK, but this is a further update.

A Past District Governor (1993-94), Norman has served as Club President and as an advocate for children with intellectual disabilities. He was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the community in January 2013.

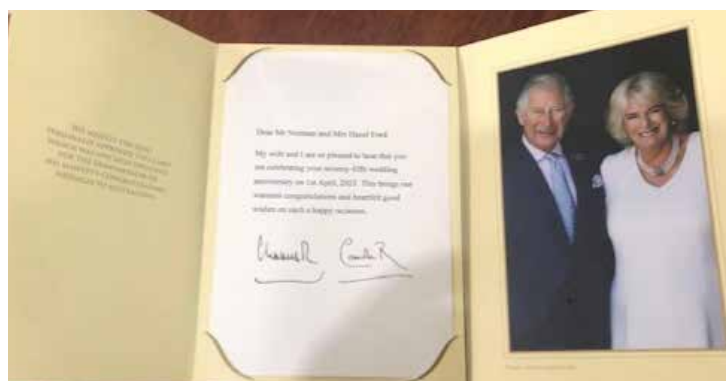
He acknowledged that the OAM honour is a tribute to the work of Kiwanis, which offers leadership development, fundraising and mentoring programmes for children across the world. Norman has also acknowledged the support of wife Hazel (a Kiwanis member) during his Kiwanis career.

He was head of the Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) programme, a Kiwanis International project in partnership with UNICEF. That worldwide project ran for several years, and Kiwanis helped raise over US\$100m to eliminate IDD worldwide. Norman was the Project Director.

This devoted couple live at Payneham in Adelaide's north-east and remain a real credit to Kiwanis. Possibly the only other Past Governors and wives still "with us" who may run anywhere near the Fords in terms of being able to celebrate long-standing wedding anniversaries might include Betty & Louis d'Amore, Lonnie & Bryan Williams, Margaret & Graham Mould, plus Carole & Jim Chantry.



*Amongst other accolades, the Fords were happy to receive congratulations from King Charles.*





## AROUND THE CLUBS

### NEWCASTLE



Newcastle Kiwanians gathered in numbers early May for the annual Mothers Day project, where cards and chocolates were collated, ready to distribute the following day.

### BENDIGO KIWANIS

Bendigo Kiwanis have done well, over a six week period, running the Friday night community raffles at The Bendigo Club, Strathdale. Our Kiwanians are shown here with a cheque for nearly A\$1600 which will help their bank account substantially.



### REYNELLA KIWANIS



Reynella Club President Bob Koster helped present long-serving stalwart John Coats with his 'official' Award marking 50 years service to Kiwanis. That's John above, centre, flanked by fellow stalwarts Brian Joliffe and John Adams. Well done to John, as our organisation doesn't have too many members that clock up half a century of service.



## ROSTREVOR CAMPBELLTOWN KIWANIS



Past President Geoff Thomas and Avril Pople are shown at the home of President Bruce Ind and Ann who early March kindly hosted the Annual Brunch where the accompanying Auction raised a magnificent \$640 for Club funds. A couple of recent Bunnings sausage sizzles raised over \$1500, terrific outcome.

Make sure Saturday July 19 is in the diary, as that's when Roscam annual Quiz Night is due to be held - all welcome. Peter Norman and Rod Cameron are shown above right, at the lectern, with Peter in 'full flight'!

## MOOROOPNA KIWANIS



Mooroopna Kiwanis have donated \$2000 to the Shepparton Area L2P Program. This is an initiative helping eligible Victorian learner drivers to gain driving experience needed for a probationary licence but don't have access to a safe supervising driver or access to a vehicle. Shown above are L2P Coordinator Jenni Bowls with Kiwanians Sev Duhring, Baden Howe, Ted Davis, Trevor Bailey and Murray Shields.

Also featured (left) is Kiwanian Bonny Schnorrenberg who, along with 160 other community leaders slept under the stars on April 16 from

6pm to 6am. This enabled CEOs and VIPs to see what homeless folk experience on a daily basis. Under The Stars was monitored for safety, and cardboard shelters were provided. Over \$20,000 was raised towards Salvation Army North East Youth Services and their efforts assisting folk experiencing homelessness.

## BRISBANE KIWANIS



Brisbane Kiwanis Club remains very active. Over Easter they were in action at Lightfoot Oval, Middle Park, working at the barbecue during activities put on by TEAM Real Estate. A great chance for Kiwanis exposure!







## AROUND THE CLUBS

### MOORABBIN KIWANIS

Students from Beaumaris Secondary College pitched in to help at a recent Bunnings sausage sizzle run by Moorabbin Kiwanis. Shown here are Shift 1: Ian Randall, Sue Kimberley, Peter Cameron with Hazel and Lorna. Shift 2 below saw Jake and Harvey alongside Peter C and Geoff Hergt.



"Seasoned disc jockey" Geoff Hergt (above) in action at Southern FM 88.3, for the regular radio spot where news from Kiwanis can be put "out there".

### GEELONG KIWANIS



Past President Peter Phillips represented Geelong Club at the Anzac Dawn Service at Eastern Beach, laying a wreath (shown above) on behalf of Geelong Kiwanis.

**GEELONG CLUB** is gearing up to again be involved in the Annual Doll Teddy & Craft Show being held on Saturday June 14. This is a great chance for the Club to gain both fundraising capacity plus awareness - with our Kiwanis name to the fore.



Venue is the Masonic Hall, Belmont.

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More great publicity for Kiwanis, this one being the banner used by Mooroopna Club, shown at a recent event.





## VALE: A VALUED KIWANIAN

### ED PIGOTT (Perth)

After we lost Garnet Ray Peek two years ago, another long-lived West Australian Kiwanian has now passed, having just turned an impressive 100 years.

Ed Pigott was Inaugural Secretary of Karrinyup Kiwanis when that Club chartered in May 1981, a post he held for three years. Worth noting that in 1981 Jim Chantry was that Club's Vice-President.

Ed is also listed as being a Charter member of the original Kiwanis Club of Sydney when it chartered in May 1969.

A busy Ed was Charter Secretary of Kiwanis Club of Perth (November 1969), along with holding the position of Lt Governor of Division 4 (WA) 1977 to 1979.

Other well deserved accolades for this centenarian were joining the George F. Hixson Fellowship, and he was a Life Member of Kiwanis International.



Ed Pigott passed away on May 22, 2025. He had been visited a few days beforehand by Carole and Jim Chantry (left), helping mark his 100 year birthday.

Sadly Ed had a fall around this time but whilst convalescing from that, he contracted bronchia from which he never recovered.



## AUSTRALIA DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE

A reminder about KAD's facebook page. If your Club already has a facebook page and has 'liked' the Kiwanis Australia District, let me (Val Symons) know what you are up to. If you haven't "liked" our page, please do so.

If your Club doesn't have a facebook presence, no worries, just send in any articles, photos and items about your Club by emailing it to this address, and I can post it on your behalf. Please send to [val.symons@outlook.com](mailto:val.symons@outlook.com)



## MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

*It's a Way to Say: "We'll Always Remember..."*

Ideal for a Kiwanis Club or family, friends, Club members or business associates to honour a deceased Kiwanian. Club donors receive a "Memorial Fellowship" certificate in honour of the Kiwanian who's passed on, with an option of presenting this to the family.

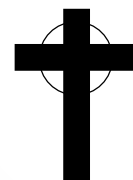
Other donations of Memorial Gifts in memory of the deceased are most welcome.

Donations: Club donors for Memorial Fellowship - Minimum of A\$250.

Other donors of Memorial Gifts - Discretionary amount.

Further details are included in the brochure available online from:

[kiwanis.org.au/foundation](http://kiwanis.org.au/foundation) or by email to: [kadcf@kiwanis.org.au](mailto:kadcf@kiwanis.org.au)





## 123READ2ME with MELINDA

# MELINDA SHELLEY and 123READ2ME

### 123Read2Me: Changing the World, One Book at a Time

Because every child deserves the chance to thrive, there's something timeless about the joy of a good book. At 123Read2Me, we believe that a single story—read aloud at just the right time—can shape a child's entire future.

We're Australia's largest free children's book charity, powered entirely by volunteers. And our mission is simple: To get books into the hands of children who have none.

Because when children can read, they thrive. And when they thrive—so do their families, classrooms, communities, and our future.

### Bringing Books—and Hope—to More Places Than Ever

In recent months, we've expanded our reach with the help of incredible volunteers and partners:

#### Albury-Wodonga:

Thanks to Sandra from the Lions Club of Lavington, children in local schools and kindergartens now have access to beautiful books—over 10,000 already donated. Sandra has also established four local donation bins, creating a sustainable source of reading material for the region.

#### Queensland's Sunshine Coast:

Janet, a retired real estate professional who discovered us online, is now donating to over 25 disadvantaged schools near the Sunshine Coast. Her passion is matched by DHL's generosity—they ship the books to Brisbane for us, free of charge.

#### Our Own Branded Boxes—Thanks to Visy:

With support from Visy and the Pratt Foundation, we now have a 12-month supply of high-quality, branded boxes. These boxes help us deliver books safely across the country and carry our message of hope wherever they go.



### The Real Heroes Behind the Scenes

At the heart of everything we do is our wonderful team of volunteers—mums, grandparents, retirees, students, and everyday Australians who give their time, energy, and care to sort, pack, deliver, and distribute books.

They're the hands and hearts that make this mission possible.

From warehouse sorting to community events, every milestone we reach begins with someone saying, "I can help."

If you'd like to lend a hand—we'd love to welcome you.

### Community Connection in Action

#### Bunnings Family Fun Night – Mother's Day

We had a wonderful time celebrating Mother's Day with the community at a recent Bunnings Family Fun Night. Our free books were a big hit with local families – many left with oodles of stories and smiles. It's a joyful, easy way to connect with the community and make a lasting difference. Want to host something similar in your area? Get in touch—we'd love to help.

### Behind Every Book Is a Smart Team

We simply couldn't do what we do without the strength of our community: Victorian Freight Specialists deliver books across the State.

The Pellicano Group provides the warehouse that makes all this possible.

And dozens of Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary Clubs across Australia help us collect, sort, and share the magic of reading.

### Programs That Are Building a Brighter Tomorrow

#### The School Buddy Program

This heartwarming initiative pairs well-resourced schools with those that have little or no access to books. It's students helping students—and learning empathy and service along the way. Mentone Girls Grammar is now supporting Tennant Creek Primary. Melbourne Grammar is helping two schools in Alice Springs

#### Supported Playgroups

We currently partner with 10 Councils to supply pre-loved books to supported playgroups that serve vulnerable families.

Our books help build connection, spark conversation, and support learning in the earliest years. And now, with the help of community fundraising, we're launching a new initiative: To give every child a brand-new copy of the exact book they read at playgroup.





This small but powerful act helps build pride, routine, and belonging—while reinforcing the joy of reading at home.

### **Welcoming New Australians**

Through the City of Melbourne's New to Melbourne initiative, we gift books to migrant families, helping parents and children learn English and settle in through the universal language of story.

### **Why This Matters**

1 in 3 Australian students is not learning to read. Many children grow up without a single book at home.

Some schools still don't have libraries. Literacy is more than education—it's confidence, opportunity, and freedom. The earlier we act, the greater the ripple effect.

### **What's Next for 123Read2Me?**

Launching Our \$5 Giving Program. We're inviting Kiwanians and others everywhere to join our mission—with just \$5 a month. It's simple, affordable, and powerful: \$5 = one brand-new book for a child who would otherwise go without. This giving program will help fund our new take-home book initiative in playgroups, expand access in low-income schools, and fuel sustainable growth.



### **Purchasing an Electric Forklift**

To manage the growing number of book donations safely and efficiently, we're working towards purchasing an electric forklift for our warehouse—helping our volunteers move pallets of books with ease and reducing manual lifting.

### **Low-Cost Book Sales in Schools**

We're also launching a program to sell brand-new children's books at affordable prices in schools and playgroups. Each book sold includes a \$1 donation back to the school—making literacy affordable for families and sustainable for our charity.

### **3 Simple Ways to Help**

- 1. Donate Books** Gently loved children's books are always needed—and always cherished.
- 2. Give \$5 a month** Just \$5 can buy a new book for a child who has none. It's a simple way to make a lasting difference.
- 3. Volunteer or Partner** Join us for a few hours of book sorting in Heatherton, help place a donation bin, or introduce us to a school or club that might want to get involved.

### **Something New Just for You**

We've just launched a QR code sign-up for our brand-new email newsletter! It's designed especially for parents, grandparents, carers and educators. You'll receive:

Simple tips and tricks for reading aloud

Updates on our achievements

### **Special prices on new children's books**

Scan the code, stay connected, and join the story. (To request a printed QR code flyer for your club or community noticeboard, just let us know!)

### **You Make the Magic Happen**

We are proud to be supported by:

Coles | Bunnings | Visy | DHL | Victorian Freight Specialists | The Pellicano Group

And of course, wonderful service clubs like Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary, whose members continue to show what's possible when we act with heart. Together, we've donated over 1,000,000 books. And we're just getting started.

Let's Keep Changing the Story—Together

Website: [www.123Read2Me.org.au](http://www.123Read2Me.org.au)

Email: Melinda Shelley | [Melinda@123Read2Me.org](mailto:Melinda@123Read2Me.org) | 0431 608 144

Facebook: [facebook.com/123Read2Me](https://facebook.com/123Read2Me)

**123Read2Me: Stories grow smarter kids—one page at a time**





# THE LAST LAUGH



Arriving home, a husband was met at the door by his sobbing wife. Tearfully she explained, "It's the pharmacist. He insulted me terribly this morning on the phone". Immediately the husband drove to confront the guy and demand an apology. Before he could say more than a few words, the pharmacist interjected, "Now, hold on, just listen to my version".

"This morning the alarm didn't go off, so I was late arising. I went without breakfast and hurried to the garage, only to realise I'd shut the door with both house and car keys inside. I had to break a window to get my keys. Then, driving a bit too fast, I scored a speeding ticket.

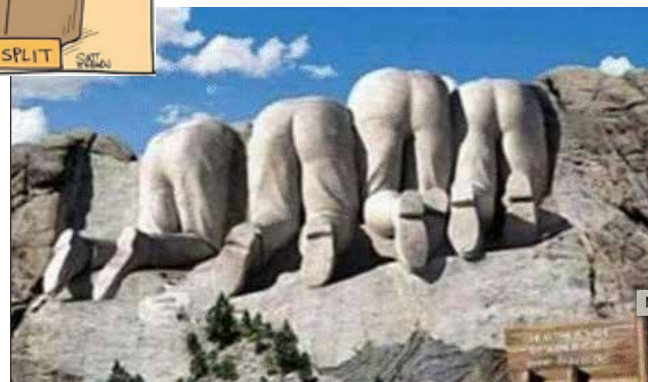
"Later, about three blocks from the pharmacy, I had a flat tyre. When I finally got to the store a bunch of people were waiting for me to open up. I opened and started serving these people, and all the time the darn phone was ringing off the hook.

"Then I had to break a roll of 20c pieces against the cash register drawer to make change and they spilled all over the floor. I got down on my knees to pick up the coins; the phone was still ringing. When I came up I cracked my head on the open cash drawer, which made me stagger back against a showcase containing a bunch of expensive perfume bottles. They all hit the floor and broke.

"Meanwhile, the phone is still ringing non-stop and I finally picked it up. It was your wife. She needed advice on using a rectal thermometer  
"... And, honestly pal, all I did was tell her!"



"You may experience irritability and pain in your hands & wrist. And that's just from trying to get the cap off."



There are some things that one just never thinks of . . . like Mount Rushmore from the Canadian side!!





## PROSPECT KIWANIS



PROSPECT KIWANIS recently scored a terrific addition to their fundraising stocks when Shared Stitches of Mannum donated a fabulous quilt to the group, show here with Club member Cheryl.

The top was made by Shared Stitches member Jane McMellon who estimates it took around 28 hours and working on and off over a fortnight. She used collected fabric pieces she had on hand - at 100 per cent cotton for both the top and the back, she designed the pattern to best show the quality and design of the fabrics. The finished quilt is about four square metres.

Professional quilter Rose Bauer of Vintage Quilting in the Barossa Valley completed this work of art - the pattern being called "Lively".

It's even patched with an inner wadding of a wool and polyester blend, which means it is soft, warm but lightweight - it can even be machine washed.

The Prospect Kiwanis Club is very grateful for this donation, and there are so many that will benefit from this generous effort. Thanks again to Shared Stitches, and Vintage Quilting.

## GLENELG KIWANIS



The Club's annual President's Lunch was held at Kingston House, Kingston Park. Shown above are Helen, Shirley, Marilyn, Judy and David enjoying the company. And that's Louise, our Lt Governor Div 8, inset.

At the latest Glenelg Club meeting two Legion of Honour awards were conferred by President Trevor Averay, on David Meadows (30 Years) and Tony Heath (25 Years). Both these gents have done two year stints as Club President.



Annette Lenon shown above, with two Glenelg PS students at the recent Terrific Kids presentation (permission has been given to print this photo).





## KIWANIS BOOK SHOP UPDATE

**BOOKWORMS,  
READ ON!**



*The new Young Adults and New Arrivals book cases.*



*Elizabeth and Barbara cleaning and pricing books.*



*Recently installed CD book case, complements the other cases.*

For those Kiwanians who might have come in late, here's a bit of background on the very successful Kiwanis Book Shop at Mount Barker in the Adelaide Hills.

In early 2018 the Adelaide Hills Kiwanis Club realised that a fundraising opportunity was becoming available. Mt Barker with a population now of over 25,000, didn't have a dedicated book shop. After testing the demand at a local market, the Kiwanis club made the decision to open a book shop as their main fundraising focus.

Several hurdles were presented for solving to the formation committee, such as finding a venue, shelving, a supply of good quality books, and of course most importantly, volunteers to staff the store. Identifying an old heritage-listed building available at a "peppercorn" rent was the signal to get busy and make it happen.

Seven years later the Kiwanis Book Shop has gone from strength to strength. From initial dreams of raising \$20K - \$30K sales per annum, over the past 12 months sales have topped \$70K and continue to grow, as more people spread the word about this terrific book shop with reasonable prices around \$1, \$2 and \$3 per book.

The annual turnover of around 28,000 books requires many volunteers to staff the Wednesday to Saturday 10 - 1pm and 1pm-4pm shifts. Currently a dozen members of the Kiwanis Club and 33 members of the community volunteer regularly to clean, price, shelf books and attend to customers.

Overheads are minimal, which allows the Book Shop to give annual donations to over 30 charities. In addition, many local families and children are supported after recommendations from local

schools. A recent example was funding a professional diagnosis for autism for a young child. There is a three to five year wait to access that diagnosis via the public health system. An early diagnosis is critical for the child's development and access to NDIS funding.

The Book Shop went international in mid-2022 by providing funding to build shelving and donating excess books in the Territory of Uvira in the Democratic Republic of Congo. That involvement has continued with the donation of medical books to that library.

In summary, from little things, BIG things grow! Dare to dream, take a risk, work hard and the rewards in community service may follow. And your club may just win an international Signature Project Award. Five years ago, the Kiwanis Book Shop performed exceptionally well to win the Bronze Award.



*These donated books were gratefully received in Uvira.*

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