



### News from President Des

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE



Now that we've all had a refreshing festive season with family and friends, we are all keen to do more volunteering, and to serve the children of the world. Well, it certainly didn't take long to get back into the swing of things.

There was much fun and fellowship with the HeartKids families at the "Aussie Party" on January 19th. Thanks to all members who came along. Tom had us all involved in fun and games with the children – it took me back to my childhood days – and we all enjoyed a tasty meal, thanks to the chefs in the kitchen. It was great to meet HeartKids CEO Sami Glastonbury once again. The children were happy to take home lots of gifts, kindly donated by Lutheran Care.

Tour Down Under on January 21st brought a lot of fun to Tanunda with plenty of roadblocks. Thanks to helpers for the Sausage Sizzle/ Drink Stall.

The Australia Day Breakfast, January 26th what a HOT day!! Eggs and Bacon could have been cooked on the pavement!! Huge thanks to all the helpers as I had an excuse for not helping!!

I had to chaperone the Active Citizenship Award winner.

Congratulations Lorna, from all our members!!

See you all soon,

cheers Des

## Our last Meeting

We've only had one meeting since our Christmas break up but it proved to be a great chance to catch up and support HeartKids families at the same time. Like us, they enjoyed Tom's kids' games and they loved the food and the quality gifts provided by Lutheran Care. Gifts left over were taken to the Children's Hospital, so were much appreciated too. The HeartKids families were

small in number, but it was important to touch base with Sami Glastonbury that day. She is now the CEO of HeartKids Australia and, when she lived in the Barossa (husband Kevin is a winemaker), worked with Kiwanis on Christmas parties and several major fundraisers for HeartKids, including the "Tour de Frances" in honour of her son Frank, who has childhood onset heart disease. She was also a guest speaker at a Sir Condor Laucke Oration and at



the Glenelg Kiwanis Convention when Robert was inducted as Lt Governor. With Sami in this role, we will be able to discuss how best we can help local HeartKids into the future.



## Other Activities

Thanks to all who contributed to a couple of our major events for the year: The Tour Down Under sausage sizzle and our Australia Day catering. Both swelled our coffers, allowing the Board to make some donations to worthy causes. See below. We wait expectantly to find out the full profit results from those days. The photos below are a record of these events. A special feature of Australia day was the presentation to Lorna of The Active Citizenship Award for the Barossa Council. This follows



on from Geoff and Lyn winning this same community award last year. The community recognition for Kiwanis, especially for the Emergency Meals program, is much appreciated. We congratulate Lorna on this well-deserved achievement.



Encouragement from SA Opposition Leader Ashton Hurn



Another activity during January was our entry in the Kiwanis International Signature Project competition. Below is part of our presentation:

*The Barossa Valley is a semirural region, based around grape growing, wine making and farming. The cost-of-living crisis, skyrocketing prices for housing and rent and rural drought have caused homelessness and family distress in the region. The Kiwanis Club of the Barossa recognised these issues and started an Emergency Frozen Meals program to meet these needs in our local school communities at the request of the local pastoral care workers in each primary school. Since June 2023, 14,732 meals have been prepared and distributed with 5,858 in 2025. The need is increasing. In July 2023, 175 meals were produced. In July 2025, 555. Recognition of this work has led to letters of support from schools and award certificates and applause at Terrific Kids assemblies. One letter has been attached. We have also purchased two freezers for this project. This is not a "free feed." Healthy, wholesome but simple meals have been produced for struggling school families across the Barossa and delivered to schools for distribution to families in need. Only those families identified by pastoral care workers as needy are assisted and the recipients are kept anonymous. Local service organisations aware of needy families have also taken meals for clients. About 8-10 Kiwanians and friends are involved. They have worked professionally in hotels and are trained in food handling. Local care agencies like Lutheran Care, local businesses like "Maggie Beer Products" have come on board with donations of produce. Kiwanis has worked in partnership with 21 schools and 7 church and service groups. Other groups like Hope Cottage Quilters and the local Ford Club have made donations. The Kiwanis Club of Barossa has gained much recognition. The Barossa Council's 2025 and 2026 Active Citizenship awards on Australia Day have gone to Kiwanis members involved in the program. New members have been attracted to the club and letters of appreciation have been sent to the Club. It is likely that almost 2000 families have been helped by this program which has enhanced the reputation of Kiwanis in the community.*



## Lorna's Fundraising Report

What a busy way to make January disappear quickly!! We kick-started with Cars Coffee Barossa on January 4<sup>th</sup>. With thanks to Anne, Tom and Marianne helping me, a total of \$399.25 was raised. January 19<sup>th</sup> - it was a delight to entertain a few HeartKids families in Nuriootpa for the HeartKids Aussie Party and to meet CEO Sami Glastonbury once again who came from Adelaide to support our event. Active Tom kept the games rolling for young and young +. After tummies were filled, plenty of gifts were chosen, - thanks to Lutheran Care - with the surplus being donated to the Children's Hospital. Thanks to all who helped; it was a great way to enjoy a rather hot day and help families.

**January 21** - TOUR DOWN UNDER - the Men's/Women's start and finish in Tanunda, had us again raising \$1540, with a Sausage Sizzle and Drink Stall.

**January 26** - AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST again saw our Kiwanis Barossa members unite to cook Bacon n Egg Rolls, Sausages and drinks. On rolls February.

First up **February 1** - CARS COFFEE BAROSSA - 7:30am Chris, Ev, Mike, Lorna

**February 8** - Seeds of Hope, PLANT THE BAROSSA YELLOW

- Tolley Reserve Nuriootpa 10:45am - Rory, Lorna

**February 15** - DECLARATION OF VINTAGE - Tanunda Rotunda

8am set-up marshals 12:30pm pack up help needed, please.  
**February 17** - FAITH COLLEGE FAMILY BBQ - 4pm - 6pm  
 Looking forward to seeing you all again at our next meeting  
 Cheers for now Lorna

## Volunteer Hours for January

January 4- CARS COFFEE BAROSSA	10 hr	4p	\$399.25
January 19 - HEARTKIDS PARTY	20	7	
January 21- TDU	51	11	\$1,538.74
January 26 – AUST. BREAKFAST	66	19 ? ?	



## Emergency Meals Report

We have done approximately 40 enjoyable hours of volunteering for December 25 and January 26. We had a break from December 14, 2025 until January 5, 2026. Donations are dropping off and we're not sure if that's to do with times being tough. Congratulations to Lorna on her award for Active Citizenship of the Year.

Blessings  
 Geoff and Lyn Hansen

PS Meals delivered: December: 480 - January: 360  
 Thanks, Geoff, Lyn, Lorna, Lou and all other helpers.

## From the Board

At its first meeting for the year, the Board resolved to support *Youth Barossa* by donating \$1000 to their Driver program and other programs to help local students. Sadie Aird, (pictured above with her family) the Barossa's Young Citizen of the Year for 2026, has agreed to come along and share about her experiences fighting lymphoblastic leukemia and the help that Make a Wish gave her. She spoke impressively about her life at the Awards ceremony on January 26. Board also resolved to donate \$1000 towards Make A Wish in the Barossa.



## Sherryl's Caring Corner for February

**Special events for February are:**  
**Birthdays**

- 5th February - Margaret Hodge
- 6th February - Sarah Schiller
- 22nd February - Glen Schulz
- 24th February - Margaret Shilton

### Anniversaries of membership

- 7th February - Des and Lorna Schiller 2002.
- 10th February - Margaret and Brian Harris 2022.

### Wedding anniversaries

- 12th February - Geoff and Lyn Hansen 1977
- 23rd February - Peter and Deb Atyeo 1980

Congrats to Mike and Sue and Ev and Chris who recently celebrated their golden weddings. The couples were married on the same day back in 1976 (but in different parts of Adelaide). Mike and Sue celebrated in Melbourne recently and purchased this memento there.

Thought for the Month and for HeartKids Australia:

**"A child's laugh could simply be one of the most beautiful sounds in the world."**

Unknown



## Gomersal Road Rest Area

Thanks to some help from Leading worker Brayden at the Barossa Council, the potholes in the driveway have been filled and mulch has been delivered. Business is also growing for Tash and Daniel in the Daydripper coffee van at Gomersal Road. This brings many new visitors to the rest area. But we will need to spread the mulch to help smother weeds sometime. If you would like to help with this job, please let President Des know. We will need to find a cool day for this job and might need to find a tractor with a bucket to make the job easier. If you know of someone with this machinery, please let us know.



## News about HeartKid Archie Schiller

Archie's Mum Sarah sent us this thank you letter for our donation to support Archie and the family when they went to Melbourne for another heart operation.

*Dearest Barossa Kiwanis,*

*I do hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and 2026 has started well for you.*

*Damien and I wanted to write to sincerely thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your incredibly generous and thoughtful gift towards our family in December while our Archie underwent his 4<sup>th</sup> heart surgery (3<sup>rd</sup> open heart and 15<sup>th</sup> surgery in total). Last year we had noticed some changes in Archie and while his Cardiology was watching him closely, sadly in early December, it was noted he was in Heart Failure. Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide had hoped that Archie may be able to delay surgery till 2026, however Melbourne Children's Hospital staff were not prepared to let it wait, so hence a quick turnaround for the Schillers and within a week or so we had packed up and were travelling to Melbourne. Archie's younger brother Harry had managed to break his wrist the week before we had the call, so it was decided he would come too.*

*Archie's surgery has gone well and thank goodness we were home before Christmas. We know he will need more as time comes, but for now we are just so thankful to be able to once again watch him do all things he loves - CRICKET AND SPORT.*

*Your gift left us speechless and in tears, your generosity meant a little freedom for us all. We could access the supports needed to get Archie home while also being able to ensure Harry was cared for as well.*

*We will forever be grateful and never forget your generosity.*

*I have attached some pictures of Archie's latest journey, just a warning, some of his ICU are confronting.*

*Much love and thank you again x*  
**Sarah Schiller**



# What's coming up?

<b>Sunday February 8</b>	<b>Seeds of Hope sausage sizzle</b>
<b>Thursday February 12</b>	<b>Regular dinner meeting Vine Inn: Story night Come ready to talk about an interesting person or place you've come across. 3-4 minutes. Email Ev if you have a picture to share.</b>
<b>Sunday February 15</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF VINTAGE</b>
<b>Thursday Feb 26</b>	<b>Australia Day focus with Lorna and Sadie Aird</b>
<b>Monday March 2</b>	<b>Board meeting 1.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday March 12</b>	<b>Mike's Family Feud</b>
<b>Thursday March 26</b>	<b>Scarlett Secomb Youth Barossa</b>
<b>Thursday April 9</b>	<b>CFS guest speaker Bindi Hawkey</b>

Serving the  **Children** of the world