



Kiwaniis[®]

CLUB OF SYDNEY

Newsletter

January - February 2026

#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 400,000 volunteers who serve their communities through local clubs.

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

Fight for their Future Foundation (FFTF) – excerpts copied from the FFTF sites

Owen Morgan Hayes was our inspirational guest speaker at our March meeting. Owen has a nonverbal son with autism. He started FFTF with a vision that his son deserves a chance to thrive, to learn, and to feel supported. His vision is that his son will have independence in his later life.

Therapy is just one hour a week. Parenting is every hour in between. One of the most exciting things we've already launched is our Autism Parent Support Night, because we know firsthand that parents need support too. Owen is mindful that siblings also require support.

We're now working on building a full parental program, one that connects families with therapists, provides hands-on tools, and gives parents the confidence and resources to support their children beyond the therapy room. Because early intervention doesn't stop at the clinic, it continues at home, every single day.

His experience shows that there are not many places in preschool for kids with autism and that navigating the NDIS for help is long and arduous. They are launching an indoor basketball league for the kids and want to start a family program that includes the siblings.

At the meeting we committed to help at their upcoming walk to raise funds and awareness. We will man a barbeque at Harold Corr Oval from 7am to 10am for approximately 50 to 100 people.

Thank you to Owen and his son for coming to our meeting.



Owen Morgan Hayes

Tea Gardens Always Fun

As usual Division 2 Clubs gathered at Tea Gardens in mid-February for our mini convention. Convention is a loose use of the word as the primary purposes are fellowship and fun with a little bit of business (3 hours) mixed in.

The early attendees arrived on the Thursday afternoon for dinner at the Tea Gardens Country Club. An early Friday start at Hawks Nest Golf Club was attended by Bryen, Pat, Bob, Steve and Cathy while the others went sightseeing and shopping. We all met at the golf club for lunch.

Friday night was dinner at the Tea Gardens Hotel and then to the Masonic Hall for our usual trivia quiz hosted by Pat and Kelli from Brisbane. The Kiwanis Sydney group with help from Graham from Brisbane ended up winning the night in a closely fought battle including a tie breaker. It helped to have



Cathy Kerry winners over Steve Ray



Steve James Ben Anna at Workshops

someone younger who knew all the music questions.



Brisbane Team dressed for "Love"

The Saturday business session was held at Tea Gardens Country Club from 9am to 12noon with 26 attendees. We elected Ray Behn to Lieutenant Governor Division 2 for 2026-27. Congratulations to Ray.



Maxine Pat



Kerri



Belinda

There was an address by Governor Steve followed by three workshops.



Belinda Cathy Steve

get their help to run their Bunnings barbeques. Sydney recently ran a fundraiser luncheon for HeartKids NSW and raised \$6,000. They also got 3 new members from the day.

Next was the Generation Gap and how do we rejuvenate our clubs. People worked in groups of three to identify:- what to **keep, change, add or stop** to make our clubs more attractive to the younger generations.

Anna then did a workshop on “Canva, putting your best foot forward for club marketing”. Club groups then set about composing a reel for a club event. Visual story telling helps build connection.

Bryen and Gaile put that they had been running the Div 2 Mini Convention for the last 27 years and that it was time for them to retire and pass to someone else. The meeting moved a huge vote of thanks to Bryen and Gaile and to Maxine for all the work they have done over the years. The vote of thanks was backed by a standing ovation. Brisbane will look to plan next years event.

Saturday afternoon saw the “caravan bocce” competition for the “Sunshine Cup”. 6 teams competed in a knockout. The final was between Cathy/Kerry and Ray/Steve with Cathy and Kerry victorious.

Saturday Fun Night was theme of “*love*” at Tea Gardens Masonic Hall with 24 in attendance. Meal was Coq au vin followed by chocolate cake. As is usual people were quite innovative with their fancy dress.

Sunday farewell breakfast of bacon and egg rolls was provided by Derek and Bob before attendees returned to their homes.

We started with Club Collaboration on success stories. East Maitland spoke to their fund raiser for MND which raised \$4,000 and also spoke about their Kindy Packs. Brisbane spoke about their Pencil Case project. Beachside-Newcastle spoke about their Beachside Bags project which provides essential clothing, toiletries and personal items to children 0-16 fleeing DV. Newcastle spoke to their Christmas Tree sales which again raised substantial funds. They also had a Nepalese leader talk to their club, and he is part of a community of 5,000 in Newcastle. Newcastle is looking to



Bob Gladys Derek



Steve Cathy



Maxine's decoration for "Love"



Mary Belinda

Val Smith-Orr – Triple B Care Projects

In 1990, Val emigrated to Australia and became a citizen in 2000. She graduated from the University of Sydney in 2003 with a Certificate in Health Science. Shortly after in 2006, her life plans changed when she took a trip to the Philippines. Val arrived in the Philippines for a six month stint, collecting data for her research at University of Queensland. Her topic of study was "feeding children with cleft palates in a developing world" and involved interviewing mothers to see what methods they used to feed their children. She has been there for 25 years and adopted one of the severely malnourished children she treated in her studies.

Triple B Care Projects was started by Val Smith-Orr after she began helping patients in need in her small kitchen. She now mainly works on burns prevention, treatment and education on how to treat burns. Her key messages were always **Cool** the burn with running water for at least 20 minutes, **Cover** the burn to prevent infection and **Call** for help.



Val Smith Orr & Cathy

School Partnerships and Support

Two of our Terrific Kids schools, Warrah and Broderick Gillawarna Special Schools approached us with specific requests for help. The Board considered these requests and have approved both requests.

Warrah requested a Defibrillator that's suitable for children. Kiwanis Sydney has donated \$2,000 to purchase one for the school. In past years we have supported Warrah with monies to purchase a weaving loom and sensory equipment. Warrah will also increase their Terrific Kids program to making presentations every term this year. Thank you to Sonia and Angelique for volunteering for the end of Term 1.

Broderick Gillawarna requested a food processor so that they can teach the kids how to gain independence by preparing their own meals. Kiwanis Sydney has donated \$350 towards this request. Our support of the school every year goes to Terrific Kids, their formal night and Fun Day.

Board Meeting

The Board met in February and made several decisions about donations and other matters.

Operation Rainbow \$1,000 They are a team of Australian doctors, nurses and other workers who travel to Cebu in The Philippines each year to perform cleft palate and lip operations on dozens of children. The monies go to transport and purchase of the medical supplies they need.

Val Smith-Orr (Triple B Care Projects) \$1,500 to support her voluntary work in treating burns victims in The Philippines.

Youth Off the Streets \$1,000 While we have supported YOTS for many years we wanted to honour Father Chris Riley who passed away in July 2025. Father Chris established YOTS in 1991 and he was CEO.

Victorian Bush Fire Appeal \$2,000. The Kiwanis Clubs of Echuca Moama, Bendigo, Shepparton Sunrisers and Mooroopna have banded together to liaise with the schools in the affected areas and do something for the children and their families. Already Australian Kiwanis clubs have donated more than \$18,000. Bendigo has started with barbeques for the children and families to help mental healing and also provide a chance to talk to others about how to obtain help. The clubs are now looking at funding children to attend school camps and tennis lessons where the families are doing it tough.

Bondi Beach Tragedy – barbeque donations received in December were increased to \$1,000. We are in discussions with Bondi Beach Surf Club as to where best to donate the funds to serve the people affected.

Rainbow Children’s Home Pokhara Nepal \$1,500. We have supported this orphanage for eight years. They house and look after about 40 orphans from 0 to 16 years old and make sure they complete their basic schooling.

Dr Luc’s School Feeding Program in DRC (Congo) \$500. Dr Luc has assisted the locals to build a school, hospital and a university. His foundation sends containers of upcycled goods including bikes, solar panels, batteries, books, desks and clothing to assist the community.

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) \$2,000. This Kiwanis Australia District Project funds research into ALL through the South Australian Health Research Institute. Kiwanis Australia has donated \$10,000 to this research each year for five years. They have made great inroads to where ALL is not an automatic terminal disease and the effects of chemotherapy have reduced significantly.

HeartKids \$2,000. This Kiwanis Australia Project funds the Primary Years Program and the Teens Transition Program. These help the children with childhood onset heart disease (CoHD) cope with many missed school days and also transitioning into the adult health systems. Kiwanis Australia has assisted Heartkids for over 20 years.

Children First Foundation \$1,000 They bring children from the Asia Pacific region and their chaperone to Australia for life changing surgeries, rehabilitate them and then return them to their homes. Their conditions are chronic and cannot be operated on in their home countries.

Hawkesbury Lunch

As has become a tradition, Kiwanis Sydney invited other clubs to join us for lunch at the Hawkesbury King Tide Café. While numbers were down due to members travelling, we welcomed Gladys and Derek from East Maitland and all had a great day as usual.



Derek Belinda Angelique Anthony Cathy Gladys Mark

Jeff visits Kiwanis European Office



Jeff in Ghent Kiwanis office

While on a holiday in The Netherlands and Belgium in January, Jeff took time out to visit the Kiwanis office in Ghent, Belgium.

He presented them with a portfolio of photos and history of the William Thomas Leggett memorial at Rocky Hill Memorial in Goulburn. Leggett is believed to have been the first Australian killed in action in the defence of Ypres, Belgium in WW1.

The Kiwanis Club of Werwick-Geluwe and council in 2004 built a memorial to Leggett in his hometown of Goulburn. Kiwanis Sydney attended the opening of the memorial and worked with the local high school and sponsored their chronicle of the history.

Bunnings Barbeques

Our January and February Bunnings barbeques were both successful with over \$4,500 being raised. We thank all our valuable helpers who made each day a success. It has been great to have friends of Kiwanis come along eager to help.

The donations “pots” at these barbeques were for Back to School Packs and Dr Luc Feeding Program in the Congo.



Saroj Jeff Cathy Zara Dave



Grace Cathy Steve Belinda Tara



Zara Belinda Sanchay Monu Tara Fifi

Kiwanis Sydney District Convention

Planned for Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd August 2026 at Rydges Central Sydney, 28 Albion St, Surry Hills. Registrations out in coming weeks.

Saturday Fun Night is

“Kruising with Kiwanis on a Hot August Night”



Members

So far in 2025-26 we have welcomed four new members of Zara, Tara, Sonia and Paul.

Zara was inducted by Governor Steve and President Angelique at the January meeting. Zara is certainly our youngest member. She is studying Medical Sciences at Macquarie University with a view to advancing to a Medicine Degree at the end of 2026. Zara is Steve and Cathy's granddaughter meaning that we now have three generations as members of Kiwanis Sydney. Zara is not new to Kiwanis as she has helped at many of our Bunnings barbeques over the years.

Paul signed up as a new member in December, although he is yet to be formally inducted. More to come on Paul.

Unfortunately, Naz, Vikki and Sree tendered their resignations from Kiwanis in December and February due to personal issues. We thank them for their valuable contributions to service over the years. We are sad to see them go and wish them well with their future endeavours.

We reiterate to all members and prospects that we respect that family comes first, before work and then Kiwanis.



Cathy Zara Steve

#Kids need Kiwanis!

#Kiwanis needs You!

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

Kiwanis Sydney would like 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. Kiwanis Sydney members will support the club.

"WHERE
DEVELOPMENT
KNOWS NO
DISABILITY"



If you know of someone with an intellectual disability 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 or see www.kiwanissydney.org

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

Joke Corner

Apparently exercise helps you with decision making. It's true. I went for a run this morning and decided I'm never going again.

The Oldest Computer Was Owned By Adam And Eve. It Was An Apple With Very Limited Memory. Just 1 Byte And Everything Crashed!

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

Events Coming Up: 2026

Tues 10th Mar 2026 - Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Library

Sat 14th Mar 2026 – Bunnings BBQ at Artarmon, Reserve Rd, Artarmon – 3 shifts 8am, 11am and 1.30pm

Sun 29th Mar 2026 – Barbeque for HeartKids at Parramatta Race 1 – 6.30am to 11.30pm

Fri 2nd Apr 2026 – Terrific Kids Presentations at SEWS, BGS and Warrah

Sat 11th Apr 2026 – Fight for their Future Foundation Barbeque at Walk Harold Corr Oval – 7am to 10am

Tues 14th Apr 2026 - Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Library

Sat 18th Apr 2026 – Bunnings BBQ at Artarmon, Reserve Rd, Artarmon – 3 shifts 8am, 11am and 1.30pm

Sat 9th May 2026 – Mother's Day Cards and Flowers at Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home Lane Cove

Sat 9th May 2026 – Bunnings BBQ at Artarmon, Reserve Rd, Artarmon – 3 shifts 8am, 11am and 1.30pm

Tues 12th May 2026 - Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Library

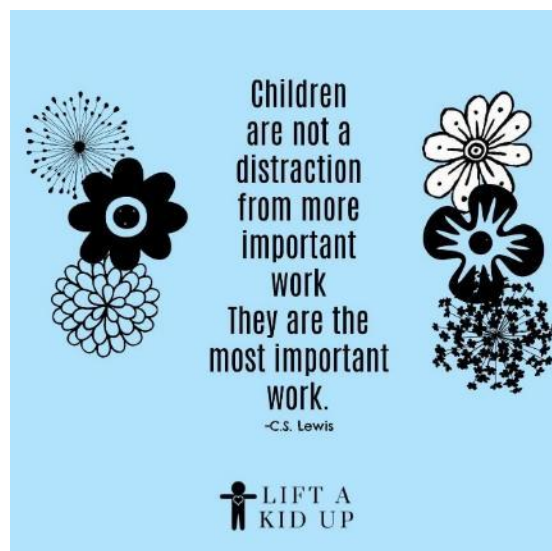
Tues 9th Jun 2026 - Kiwanis Sydney Meeting 7pm – Pennant Hills Library

Sat 13th Jun 2026 – Bunnings BBQ at Artarmon, Reserve Rd, Artarmon – 3 shifts 8am, 11am and 1.30pm

24th to 27th Jun 2026 – Kiwanis International Convention in Manila, Philippines

Fri 3rd Jul 2026 – Terrific Kids Presentations at SEWS, BGS and Warrah

Fri 21st to Sun 23rd Aug – Kiwanis Australia Convention – Rydges Central Sydney 28 Albion St, Surry Hills



Deserving Causes Kiwanis Sydney has helped	2025-26	2024-25
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, weaving loom, sensory equipment and defibrillator	✓	✓
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 - Primary years and Teens transition programs (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 –The Possibility Project	✓	✓
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		✓
Mission in Health Care and Development - school and hospital equipment in DR Congo		✓
Arunoday India Children with Blindness		✓
Kiwanis Pakistan - food for kids		✓
Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research fundraiser	✓	
Victorian Bush Fires Appeal through Kiwanis Div 7 clubs	✓	
Dr Val Smith Orr - Triple B Care Projects caring for children with burns in Philippines	✓	
Dr Luc School Feeding Program in DRC (Congo)	✓	
Bondi Beach Tragedy	✓	
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 Australia

Website : www.kiwanissydney.org