

Australian Kiwanian

Official Newsletter of KIWANIS AUSTRALIA DISTRICT www.kiwanis.org.au

July 2026



Kiwanis



HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?



The 2026 Kiwanis Australia District Convention will be held in Sydney from August 21 to 23, hosted by Division 2 and the Kiwanis Club of Sydney. To register, go to <https://register.kiwanissydney.org/>

Some Event Details:

- **Venue:** [Rydges Sydney Central](#) in Surry Hills.
- **Cost & Registration:** The primary attendee fee is **\$320** per person.
- **Inspiring speakers:** Hear from UNICEF Australia, Sydney Children's Hospital, and the unforgettable Nathan the Lawn Mower Man.



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From Governor Steve Hughes

Kids need Kiwanis

Kiwanis needs You!

I thank Trish Madsen from Kiwanis Brisbane for taking on the position of AK Editor. Our AK is an important publication that showcases what is happening around the clubs in Kiwanis Australia. Also, a big thanks to David McNabb and Rose Hepple who have been editors of the AK over the last eleven years.

Our Kiwanis year is three quarters through, and our member numbers have increased by 17 to 571. I would love for you to share what we do with people outside of Kiwanis and invite them to join. The valuable work we do can only continue if we continually add new members to help us.

We have just returned from the combined KI and ASPAC Conventions held in Manila, Philippines in June. It was great to meet up with old friends and meet new ones. The showcase of projects being done by Kiwanis around the world was inspiring, and the workshops gave us new ideas and a shot in the arm. The Convention had 2 great guest speakers and I will expand on the events later in this AK.

Division 7 Clubs and Lieut. Gov Tim Dawes have continued to help children and their families who were affected by the Victorian Bushfires in January. It is pleasing that a lot of clubs around Australia contributed funds to help this cause. Recently \$5,000 was donated to BlazeAid to directly help the families affected.

District Convention planning is well underway, and we have 70 registrations to date. We would love to have over 80 to make it a successful convention. We have Rev. Bill Crews opening the convention with Nathan of Facebook Lawns and Gardens fame, Kirsty-Leah Goymour from Sydney Children's Hospital and a UNICEF Australia person as guest speakers. "Ike" Altavas from The Philippines will also be there as KI Trustee. There will be several workshops, fun, fellowship and a chance to meet new and old friends. <https://register.kiwanissydney.org> The Saturday night fun night theme is "Kruising with Kiwanis on a Hot August Night".

Our Board has finalised and adopted a revised Child Protection Policy and there will be an information workshop at the District Convention.

We are looking for a nomination for Governor Elect 2026-27. Being Governor is rewarding and if you would like to learn more about the position then contact myself.

If any club or division would like to host the 2027 Kiwanis Australia District Convention then we would love to hear from you.

Kiwanis Australia has updated the trifold brochures and your club has received an allocation. We have also been trying 3 months of TV advertising on digital Channel Nine to attract new members.

It has been great to meet so many of you through the year and hear about your truly amazing work in supporting children and others.

Thanks for your support.

Steve

ASPAC & Kiwanis International Conventions Manila June '26

Feedback From Steve Hughes;-



Peter Belinda Jeff Steve Anne Cathy Dave

What attracts us to attend Kiwanis Conventions overseas? We - get to meet lots of Kiwanis friends and make new ones; meet personally with the leaders of Kiwanis from all around the world; learn new things about Kiwanis; learn how we might attract new members; learn about the different projects that Kiwanis clubs perform; have fun; all while exploring a new destination in the world.

This year the KI Convention was combined with the ASPAC Convention and the event was held in Manila from 24th to 27th June. It was held at the major Convention and Exhibition complex in Manila only a short enclosed walk from the International Airport. The adjoining Marriott Hotel was the main hotel used by delegates. The combined KI/ASPAC

Convention only happens once every 8 years. Next year's KI Convention is in Dallas, and the ASPAC Convention is in Guam.

There were about 1,300 in attendance which was down from the usual 3,000 due to war in middle east and the convention being outside of America. Philippines was well represented plus Taiwan with most districts and nations from ASPAC being represented also. Kiwanis Australia had 7 people attend, including Steve, Cathy, Belinda, Jeff, Dave, Peter and Anne.



Anne Cathy Steve Belinda in HOD

The Wednesday and Thursday program mainly focussed on ASPAC events including showcase of the region with booths, cultural displays, house of delegates (HOD) and the Colors of ASPAC Gala Dinner. Elections in the HOD elected the new leadership of Kiwanis ASPAC:- Michael Chiew (Malaysia) as Chair, "Gigi" Chan Chu (South Philippines) as Chair Elect and Glenda Hufano (Philippines Luzon) as Vice Chair. They also elected "Ike" Altavas from Southern Philippines as KI Trustee for ASPAC to replace Mohan Lamsal (Nepal) as the outgoing Trustee. Ike will serve as Counsellor to Australia for 2026-27 and attend our convention.



Michelle Cordioli Chair ASPAC



Hope Markes Jamaica KI President Des.

There were some amendments to the ASPAC Bylaws proposed and voted on. A change to titles of leaders and voting entitlements were defeated, however all the cosmetic wording corrections to the Bylaws were passed.

The Colours of ASPAC Gala Dinner was certainly an entertaining and fun night. Governor Steve was presented with the other ASPAC leaders and lots of awards were presented. Australia did well in the awards receiving 5 trophies, 6 certificates and a banner patch.

The Friday and Saturday program focussed on KI events. These included many workshops on SLP, club functioning, growth, leadership, community image and member engagement and retention. There was also the KI house of delegates to elect the leadership of KI for 2026/27:- Hope Markes (Jamaica) as President, Cathy Symanski (Pennsylvania) as President Elect and Trinidad "Toto" Gonzales (Philippines Luzon) as Vice President. They also elected 5 North American trustees.



ASPAC Leaders

The Gala Dinner on Saturday had entertainment, fun, fellowship and dancing.

One Keynote Speaker for the Convention was Lei Wang who despite her slight build and lack of athletic background was the first Asian woman to complete the Explorer's Grand Slam – climbing the highest peak on each continent, including Mount Everest, and skiing to the North and South Poles. She is an executive coach and spoke of her journey in relation to setting and achieving personal and business challenges. Her messages were relevant to leadership and goal setting in clubs.



Guest Speaker Bana

The other Guest Speaker was Bana Alabed, who was awarded 2025 International Children's Peace Prize. Ten years ago, at just 7 years old, Bana caught the world's attention, tweeting from the siege of Aleppo, Syria. Her family escaped to Turkey but still live with the horrors they have seen. Moving from the war zone was not the panacea it may seem as now she had lost all her friends, had to learn a new language, and culture and her family had to start from scratch. She continues to campaign for the 1 in 5 children around the world living in conflict zones, and for basic human rights such as access to clean water.

What did I learn from the Convention? Some key points. Key Clubbers in Malaysia are writing "pen pal" letters to members in Western Canada to improve their writing skills. Use your club website or Facebook to advertise upcoming projects and invite anyone to come along and help. Define your club's values in a Value Statement and test if your projects align with this. Pre-send business to members and take it out of your meetings to increase time for fellowship and fun. Exchange contacts from phones on index cards and get another member to invite them to a club event.



Fun at Gala Night

Make Kiwanis feel like their extended family. Inside children's books stick a QR code linking to a Kiwanian reading the book. Embrace the concept of "value" to members. Focus on what our club "needs" to have. Look at your club and ask whether it suits the current members. Could a breakfast, lunch, dinner or hybrid (Zoom) be more appropriate. Make sure the club sends a thankyou for the service you do to a member once a month.

Think about attending a future convention. The rewards are great!



Ambrosia Steve Daniel in front of booths



Governor's Hall of Honour

From the Editor (Trish)

Before introducing myself, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of David McNabb and Rose Hepple who compiled the Australian Kiwanian for the past 10 years. A sincere thankyou from all Kiwanians for keeping clubs informed of local and international matters. Your efforts have been very much appreciated.



As for me, I have been part of the Brisbane Kiwanis for at least 7 years. My paid work for many years has involved writing reports for the sugar industry so report writing and editing is sort of what I do and hopefully I will be able to continue Rose and David's good work of keeping clubs across Australia informed of each other's projects.

For the Around the Clubs section I have relied heavily on news posted to club facebook pages but please do email me directly (ak@kiwanis.org.au) if you would like your club's happenings to be included in a future edition. Any suggestions for improvements are always welcome.

That's it for now, Best wishes, Trish.

Roma Mitchell Key Club

Key Club International is the oldest and largest high school service-leadership organization in the world, sponsored by Kiwanis International. It gives students opportunities to perform service, build character, and develop leadership through volunteering in local communities and schools

The **Roma Mitchell Key Club** is based at Roma Mitchell Secondary College in Adelaide, South Australia and is sponsored by Kiwanis Prospect. The President of Roma Mitchell Key Club, Wajiha Gulzari, recently forwarded the letter below outlining their excellent projects and plans for 2026;-

My name is Wajiha Gulzari, and I am the President of Key Club at Roma Mitchell Secondary College for 2026.

I am currently in Year 12 and have been involved in Key Club since I started high school. Being given the opportunity to serve as President this year is something I am incredibly grateful for, as Key Club has played a significant role in my leadership journey and commitment to community service.

Our focus this year is strengthening community connections and creating meaningful opportunities for young people to engage in service and leadership.

In Term 1 our Key Club members partnered with a local primary school to support their Harmony Day celebrations. We planned and facilitated a range of interactive cultural activities, including henna, cultural bracelet making, cultural dance workshops, and cultural cookie decorating. We also organised several sporting activities, including AFLW, cricket, and soccer. It was a fantastic day that brought students together, celebrated diversity, and helped build positive relationships between our schools. Seeing the enthusiasm and engagement of the students made the experience incredibly rewarding for all involved.

This term we are currently planning a collaboration with Ingle Farm Primary School and are also hoping to work with Helping Hand Aged Care in Ingle Farm to create meaningful intergenerational connections between students and residents.

Another major focus for our club is supporting the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia. Throughout the year, we have been fundraising to help provide safe birthing kits for women in developing countries. We have already successfully completed two fundraising events and are looking forward to continuing this important work, with our main Birthing Kit initiative likely taking place during Term 3.



VALE – ANNIE BAINGER – Adelaide Hills and Tea Tree Gully

Kiwanians were saddened to learn of Annie Bainger's passing in June 2nd. Annie was a valued, and very active member of both The Tea Tree Gully Kiwanis Club and The Adelaide Hills Kiwanis Club. She also volunteered for many years with Operation Flinders walking with and assisting in changing the lives of many teenagers at risk. Despite being diagnosed with terminal cancer Annie fought on and continued her activities supporting Kiwanis Projects. Annie was an inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing her. A Remembrance and Celebration of Annie's life will be held on August 29th at Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills.

VALE - BRIAN MASON (Reedbeds Kiwanis)

Brian Antony Mason was born in UK on 20-2-1935 and emigrated to South Australia with wife Carole. He and Carole lived in West Lakes, Adelaide, and Brian joined West Lakes-Grange Kiwanis Club in September 1993.

Kiwanis was a natural offshoot for his interest in volunteering, which he expanded on, after retiring from a career in engineering. Brian was a "gun" helping at barbecues, but not usually of the Bunnings variety - West Lakes had its own well equipped barbecue trailer and those Kiwanians catered for a wide variety of events.



Brian was exceptionally keen on supporting a group of volunteers who looked after the nearby Tennyson sand dunes, and along with fellow West Lakes Kiwanian Jeff Walker, they regularly helped at the sand dunes working bees which concentrated on controlling rabbit numbers, eradicating weeds and non-native plants, maintaining fences and walkways plus signage, along with building a viewing platform at the top of the dunes.

When West Lakes Kiwanis went into recess, Brian (along with Jeff) joined Reedbeds Kiwanis Club where he remained active until sadly suffering a stroke several years ago. Brian passed away peacefully after bravely battling the aftermath of his condition on 18th June 2026.

His funeral under the care of Tony Monte Funerals was held at Our Lady of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Henley Beach on 30th June, attended by several past Reedbeds Kiwanians.



Heart Kids



Ian Randall reports that a major annual event, held nationally by HeartKids is their Two Feet and a HeartBeat walk in October. Participants walk 4km—symbolizing the four lives lost to Childhood Onset Heart Disease each week in Australia—and have the option to complete an 8km walk to represent the eight babies born daily with a heart condition. The events typically feature family-friendly activities like a sausage sizzle, face painting, and entertainment. All funds raised go directly toward providing critical, lifelong support services for Australian families.

As HeartKids has had to downsize significantly this year, it needs Kiwanis support more than ever to make these events successful. The 3 HeartKids coordinators are Mitz Wang for QLD, NSW & ACT, Shelley URE for WA, TAS & VIC and Steff Correani for SA and they have already begun contacting clubs and seeking help. If clubs could do their best (as always) to support, that would be wonderful!

Ian Randall

Kiwanis Liaison Leadership Chair: HeartKids

Children First Foundation

The ***Today Tomorrow*** Project aims to increase surgical capacity in a child's home country. The project is currently working with Samoa. Due to the limited healthcare workforce, Samoa faces significant challenges in meeting its paediatric surgical needs. There are only two surgeons in the country, and neither specialises in paediatrics. This critical shortage of paediatric surgeons and limited access to training results in delayed or unavailable care, often leading to complications or life-threatening outcomes

The project involves surgical capacity building trips being conducted annually over three years to deliver urgent surgery to Samoan children and build the surgical capacity of the Samoan paediatric surgical team (two registrars, an anaesthetist, and perioperative/theatre/post-operative nurses). The Surgical Partners are the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and local partners, the Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital, Apia, Samoa. The long-term goal is that surgeons in Samoa will be able to deliver safe and quality surgery to Samoan children.

To donate via credit card, go to the Foundation's secure website:
www.childrenfirstfoundation.org.au

OR send a cheque or money order, payable to Children First Foundation to L24 / 570 Bourke St, Melbourne, VIC, 3000

The Foundation also sent through the following positive story;-

Five-year-old Lilyrose travelled to Adelaide with her mum, Janeth, to receive specialist care from renowned craniofacial surgeon, Dr Mark Moore, and his team. She had been living with a swollen mass at the base of her skull that had gradually grown as she grew older and was beginning to affect her daily life.

Because of supporters like Kiwanis, Lilyrose was able to access the expert assessment, treatment and surgery she urgently needed. Your kindness helped ensure she received care that simply wasn't available close to home. Lilyrose is now home in Vanuatu with a bright and healthy future ahead of her.



Literacy and 123Read2M2 Update

Ian Randall

The Melbourne based charity, 123Read2Me, provides children in low socioeconomic communities with FREE quality children's books through recycled books or new ones purchased with cash donations. The total value of books donated to date exceeds \$10,000,000.00 (replacement value).

Ian Randall (phone 0419 334 850, email: ian.randall@bigpond.com) coordinates the ordering of books for Kiwanis. The books are graded into 4 categories: Baby, Kinder and Prep, Primary Picture and Primary Reader. Kiwanis clubs make use of these books in various ways. Moorabbin Kiwanis distribute one box of Kinder/Prep and one box of Primary Reader Books to their bookcases in each of three supermarkets every week (300 books weekly) as well as distribute to schools and Heartkids activities. Brisbane Kiwanis has 5 book boxes located across a number of venues including childcare centres and the local soccer field (photo opposite). Clubs interested in obtaining books should contact Ian and provide the delivery contact name and phone number, the delivery address and the number of boxes needed. There are 50 books in each box.





For the last 25 years one of the Community Service projects undertaken by the **Hills Aktion Club** has been to take part in Clean Up Australia Day in March each year. That consistent effort was recognised this year at the Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Convention in Manila Philippines with the project being awarded this year's Best AKtion Club Award. The photos above show Australian District Governor Steve Hughes being presented the award in the Philippines and on the far right, Div.8 Lt. Governor Louise Heywood presenting the award and Certificate to The Hills AKtion club President Barton Gawen. An outstanding effort by the Hills Aktion Club and very nice to have your efforts recognised. Thank you to Governor Steve for submitting the projects details to the 'Kiwanis ASPAC Rise Campaign'.



NewCastle Aktion members have also been industrious. Mother's Day saw Aktion Clubbers deliver cards and chocolates to Koombalah and Sugarloaf Gardens aged care homes, which were very much appreciated.



More recently Newcastle Aktion members held a dinner and karaoke evening. Those attending enjoyed some Tina Turner, Michael Jackson, Billy Ray Cyrus and John Denver music.



AROUND the CLUBS & Starting in the West....

Kiwanis Club of Perth: Club President, Kaye Winfield, and the wonderful volunteer Izzana Khairudin spent a beautiful morning bringing smiles to the amazing residents at Richter Lodge. It was all about connection, love, and a little bit of pampering:

💖 Delivering heartfelt, hand-written Mother's Day cards. ✨ Gifting lovely skincare treats to brighten their day and 💬 Sharing laughs, stories, and unforgettable moments with some truly incredible women.

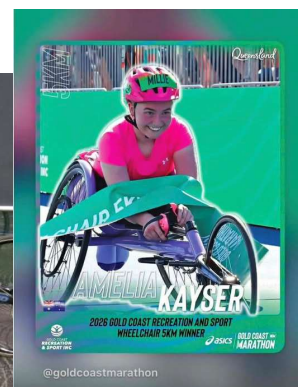


Moving East into South Australia;-

Kiwanis Club of Glenelg: The club reported some Millie Magic. Millie has been partially paralysed for a few years. She is in Year 12 and hopes to study as a doctor soon. Glenelg Club raised funds for half the cost of a racing wheelchair which was presented to Millie in May. Half the funds came from corporate member Matt Smith and his wife Agnes.

Millie achieved outstanding results at the Gold Coast Marathon in early July - a first place in the 5km race and a personal best in the 10km as well.

Kiwanis Glenelg Club is so proud of Millie's journey and accomplishments, and we are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed to help



her with her dream. Millie's story truly shows the power of community support and generosity.

Another noteworthy event by Kiwanis Club of Glenelg was their **Musical Bingo night**, which raised \$6,000 for Operation Flinders. Operation Flinders supports the transformation of young people through remote outback adventure programs, especially designed for those from environments with family dysfunction, drug abuse, and physical abuse to improve self-confidence and self-esteem, ability to work in teams, and ability to accept responsibility. The funds raised will go toward their upcoming camps in the Flinders Ranges. The photos of the evening revealed it was a tonne of fun!

Kiwanis Club of Athelstone took part in the Adelaide Marathon Festival. Club member, Paul kept things safe as a traffic marshal and five of the club's amazing members including Natasha, Odette, Alan and Barry manned the water, electrolyte, and fruit stations. Even the rain couldn't dampen their energy!!



The Adelaide Marathon is the flagship event of the South Australian Road Runners Club (SARRC). Well done Athelstone for helping at this community event.

Moving Further East into Victoria;-

Victorian Bushfires Appeal

After the Longwood and Harcourt bushfires in Victoria in January, the Kiwanis Clubs in Division 7 banded together to assist affected kids and their families. The local clubs of Bendigo, Echuca Moama, Shepparton Sunrisers and Mooroopna have talked to school principals to see how best they can help. Several Kiwanis clubs around Australia donated approximately \$25,000 to fund the efforts.

So far, they have conducted community barbeques where affected families have come together to talk about their losses, learn where they might get assistance and create a community healing process. They have funded a Family Fun Day at a Primary School and buses for school camps and excursions, and sporting fee charges for the kids so they don't miss out.

Well done to the clubs of Division 7 and to all the clubs who have donated. This response truly reflects the spirit of *Serving the Children of the World*.

The **Bendigo Kiwanis Club**, with generous assistance of BigW at Bendigo Marketplace, have been able to assist Sunshine in their support for families, by providing 10 Safe & Sound Premium convertible car seats for 0 to 4 year olds. Sunshine Bendigo is a community-based, volunteer group that provides practical support to families experiencing challenging times by collecting, sorting, and redistributing essential new and pre-loved baby goods and nursery equipment. The photo shows a delighted Glenda at Sunshine Bendigo accepts delivery from the Kiwanis crew.



Sheparton Sunrisers braved cold winter weather and took part in the community's **Teddy Bears' Picnic**. Felicity reported that the Kiwanis ball pits proved very popular and provided lots of exercise for kids and Sunrisers collecting balls. People appreciated the free books & the donated soft toys that were handed out.



Still in country Victoria, the **Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna** ran a successful BBQ at Mooroopna Markets in late June. Recent activities funded by the Club include a donation to Kallym Huffer to attend Australian Schools Boxing Championships in Brisbane and a donation to Mooroopna Primary to attend the State Schools Spectacular in Melbourne.

Now to **Melbourne** where the three clubs (Moorabbin, Brighton Bayside and Monash Waverley) continue to work cooperatively on fundraising and service projects. Brighton Bayside and Moorabbin are jointly developing a Kiwanis Bug Garden at a special school.

Moving North into NSW and then lucky last, Qld

Sydney Kiwanis Club sponsor the **Comfort Care Cases** at the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick. The cases provide items in the oncology, emergency and palliative care wards to children in an end-of-life situation. The items try to make

their time in hospital less sterile and let them create memories with their families. There are books to read with their siblings to talk about passing and what it means. The cases are also used at the morgue, and where children choose to stay at home. This is the 13th year Kiwanis Sydney has supported the Comfort Care Cases and they have donated a total of \$37,000 in that time.

This year, a friend of Club Member Belinda was keen to Help. Aleksandrs (from Latvia) completed a 163 km run through the Blue Mountains with 7,000 metres elevation gain in the Ultra Trail Australia. This gruelling course demanded elite endurance, and he completed the course in 36.5 hours. Several people sponsored Alex and he raised \$1,369 towards the Comfort Care Cases. A fabulous effort Alex and Kiwanis Sydney!

Kiwanis Beachside-Newcastle recently packed 72 Beachside Bags for kids in crisis/need. Port Waratah Coal Services provided financial assistance and donations came from Creating for Charity plus anonymous donors. Bags went to Mosaic Multicultural Connections, Eastlakes Family Support Service Inc., CatholicCare Disability & Community Services. Well done Beachside-Newcastle!



And finally, **Kiwanis Brisbane** – the photo on Page 1 showed club president Ray serving food at Breakfast Club at one of our local schools. The club mans each Wednesday and also helps at other school events. It was very lovely to see the school acknowledge the efforts of Kiwanis with a “Thankyou” message on their notice board (see photo opposite).



Other activities have included buying and delivering food for Brisbane Youth Services, an organisation that supports young people (aged 12-25 years), and their children, who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Brisbane.

And....the Not So Serious – with an Australian theme this edition

What did the grape say when it got crushed? It let out a little **whine**.



Did you hear about the two baked beans that hitchhiked around Australia?

They ended up in Cairns.

Why do koalas make for such a bad husband?

A: Because he eats, roots, shoots and leaves.

