



Governor's Newsletter May/June 2026

Remember my Motto for this year is **#Kids need Kiwanis, Kiwanis needs You!**

Governor Visits to Clubs and Divisions

I have now visited all Divisions or Clubs in the District with visits to Rostrevor Campbelltown while in Adelaide in May. There were members from Prospect, Barossa, Athelstone and Glenelg in attendance. Cathy and I have also recently visited East Maitland and Newcastle clubs again in June.

Kiwaniis Australia District Convention on Fri 21st to Sun 23rd August 2026. We have 60 people registered so far, however would like over 80 to make it a great event. We believe we will have Kiwanians from Philippines, India, Pakistan, New Zealand and New Caledonia in attendance. Come by train, plane or car and do some sightseeing of Sydney while there. We'd love to see all clubs represented. <https://register.kiwanissydney.org>

We are also looking for a club or division to run the 2027 District Convention.

Kiwaniis Australia Leadership We are seeking a Governor-Elect to nominate ahead of our Convention in August. This is a great opportunity to meet Kiwanians from around Australia and the world. Contact me if you would like to know more.

Thanks to Trish Madsen of Kiwanis Brisbane for taking on the position of AK Editor. Send articles you would like published to ak@kiwanis.org.au.

In May, Kiwanis Australia conducted a leadership training day for the new Board for 2026-27 in Adelaide. This was run by Governor Elect Peter Zander in conjunction with Jan Hyde as Chair of Leadership Development.

Kiwanis Australia Board Meeting #3 was held in Adelaide in May. The new Child Protection Policy for Australia was adopted. We will run a workshop on the Policy at Convention.

KI Convention Manila – June 24th to 27th, 2026. Kiwanis Australia had 7 people attend. It was a great convention with the ASPAC portion held on the Thursday including reports, elections, consideration of Bylaw amendments, awards and a showcase of the ASPAC Districts and Nations. The Colors of ASPAC Gala Dinner was certainly an entertaining and fun night. Friday and Saturday was the KI portion with lots of interesting workshops followed by elections, consideration of Bylaw amendments culminating with a Gala Dinner with entertainment, fun, fellowship and dancing.

The Keynote Speaker was Lei Wang who despite her slight build is the first Asian woman to complete the Explorer's Grand Slam – climbing the highest peak on each continent, including Mount Everest, and reaching the North and South Poles. She spoke on her journey in relation to setting and achieving personal challenges.

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. She continues to campaign for the 1 in 5 children around the world living in conflict zones.

Elections for ASPAC elected Michael Chiew (Malaysia) as Chair, Gigi Chan Chu (Philippines South) as Chair Elect and Glenda Hufano (Philippines Luzon) as Vice Chair. Ike Altavas (Philippines South) was elected as KI Trustee for ASPAC. Ike will serve as Counsellor to Australia for 2026-27 and attend our convention.

Elections for KI elected Hope Markes (Jamaica) as President, Cathy Szymanski (Pennsylvania) as President Elect and Toto Gonzales (Philippines Luzon) as Vice President. They also elected 3 North American Trustees.

Thank you,

Steve Hughes – Governor 2025-26 Governor@kiwanis.org.au