



Governor's Newsletter August 2026

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

Kiwaniis Australia District Convention 2026 was held at Sydney Rydges Central on 21st to 23rd August. What a great convention! My thanks go to Jeff Hudson, Cathy Hughes, Angelique and Anthony Mastoroudes who were the main organising committee. Thanks also go to East Maitland and Beachside for the organisation of the Saturday Fun Night and to Brisbane and Newcastle for the registrations. The guest speakers were excellent and relevant with Bill Crews opening the convention, Kirsty Goymour talking about the Comfort Care Cases, Paul Johnston from UNICEF and Nathan the Lawnmower man of Facebook fame. We had close to 80 people attend and have a great time. Thank you to all who came and made it such a great event.

Thank you to all the clubs and members who donated to the KADCF during the year. At Convention we presented a cheque to HeartKids for \$20,000 to support their Primary Years and Teens Transition Programs. We also donated \$10,000 to the Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia Research Program for the sixth year.

Congratulations to Perth for winning this year's Ian Perdriau Premier Club Award and to all the other award winners at the convention.

Kiwaniis NZSP Convention was held in Napier on 28th to 30th August. Cathy and I attended along with Peter and Yvonne from Australia. While there are differences to Australia's convention it is about creating fellowship and friendships amongst Kiwanians. They had 2 fun nights for double the fun.

2027 District Convention Thank you to Barossa who will host the 2027 District Convention where we will celebrate our 60th Anniversary of Kiwanis in Australia.

Growth in Kiwanis Australia Our membership has added 43 new members this year which is 8% of our starting number of 554. At the same time we have lost 24 members (4%) to take our number as at today to 574. At our Board meeting we heard that some clubs have added approximately 10 new members but not yet added them to Engage and to their club roster. This doesn't convey to the new members that they are valued. If you need help adding these members then send the details to Kavitha secretary@kiwanis.org.au

With our reduced numbers and increased costs the Board has approved an increase in the Insurance levy to \$25 per member to cover the policy costs. During COVID we discounted the Kiwanis Australia dues from the agreed \$52. In recent years we have trimmed costs where we can, but have operated at a loss. The Board has approved an increase back to \$35 to offset some of the losses with reduced member numbers.

Club Elections Make sure your club enters your new club officers to the Engage system. When preparing the new Kiwanis Australia directory for 2026-27 we use the Engage system to prepare the directory.

Nepal Floods Appeal Our heartfelt sympathies and condolences go to all the people affected by the recent disastrous flooding in Nepal. I have today sent out a request to all clubs to support the KCF Nepal Disaster Fund by making a donation to the Kiwanis Australia account. We will transfer all the monies and acknowledge receipt. Please help our Kiwanis ASPAC members to provide immediate help to the victims.

Club Changeovers Make sure you plan for a great changeover. Invite your Lieutenant Governor to come along to retire the old Board and install the new Board, to make it special. Make sure you reflect on all the great work you have done in the year and recognise members who have contributed to the success of your club and your projects. It would be a great start to the year to induct some new members at your changeover.

New Kiwanis Year While my year as Governor is nearly over I assure you that I will work with Peter in his year as Governor to rebuild Kiwanis Australia.

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