



Governor's Newsletter September 2026

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

New Kiwanis Year!

Our 2025-26 Kiwanis year is now over. It has been an honour and a pleasure to lead and represent Kiwanis Australia as Governor for the last 12 months. Clubs and members continue to do important work in supporting children, and disadvantaged people in our communities. Cathy and I have particularly enjoyed visiting all the divisions and clubs and seeing the valuable work Kiwanis does.

Growth

Our numbers were 560 before KI shut Engage for the end of year migration to new leaders and officers. That is still an increase of 6 in the year, however we are seeing the end of year deletions at present. While members do not like to hear the constant message of “growth”, if we do not grow, we decrease into an ineffective organisation.

We welcomed 43 new members to Kiwanis during the year. Please ensure we make them feel valued at every opportunity. 11 (36%) of our clubs increased their membership. The two standout clubs are Athelstone and Perth who added 7 new members to take their numbers to 21 each. Make sure your club has developed a plan for membership growth for the next year. 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. Ask your club to induct any new members at your Changeover to make it special.

District Convention

Kiwanis Sydney and Division 2 clubs held the recent 57th District Convention in central Sydney. We had 80 attendees from 18 Australian clubs and 9 overseas visitors. The feedback from many was that it was an excellent convention with excellent guest speakers and a great venue. Special thanks go to the Organising Committee.

It is pleasing that Kiwanis Barossa will host the 2027 District Convention. I am sure the 60th anniversary of Kiwanis in Australia will be celebrated in style. Kiwanis International President Hope Marks has already committed to attend the event. The dates are 19th -22nd August 2027.

Nepal Floods Appeal

Thank you to all who have supported the Nepal Floods Appeal. The District and Clubs have donated over \$14,000 to helping the victims of this catastrophe in a fellow Kiwanis District.

I thank all the members of the Kiwanis Australia Board and the District Chairs who have supported myself and the district through the year. Your help has been invaluable. I congratulate Peter Zander on serving as Governor 2026-27 and we are particularly pleased that 7 out of 9 have served less than 3 years on the Board. Please remember in your clubs to invite new people to your boards, so that we get new ideas and personally develop our membership.

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

Keep up your truly amazing work in supporting children and others. As society changes, our work is needed more than ever. Step up and volunteer to help in the leadership of a project, of your club, or the District.

Thanks for your support. Yours in service.

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

Kiwanis is a global organisation of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.