

Kiwanis

Australia District

www.kiwanis.org.au



Governor David presents Coastal Warrnambool Charter

The Australian Kiwanian

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Serving the Children of the World ™



Welcome

Australia District

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Australian Kiwanis for 2011

Apologies to all that it is a little later than normal. I have been transferred to Kingaroy Qld from Melbourne, and my old Dell Computer crashed.

I was right in the middle of converting to a Mac so have had a crash course to try and get this edition up and running

Should be right for the future, and hopefully some of the Kiwanis One Day stories and other items in this edition prove an interesting read

The edition is slightly shorter than normal, due to the above

Apologies if I have missed anything in this edition

Dave Vickery
Editor

About Kiwanis

Our Purpose:

To improve the quality of life for children and families worldwide.

Our Mission:

As a thriving organization of men, women and youth, we are dedicated to serving the children of the world and improving the quality of life worldwide.

Our Vision:

We will be the world's leading organization engaging adult and youth volunteers



General News

Governors Report

May has been designated as membership month in Kiwanis.

What has YOUR club done to attract new members this month

When the topic of growth comes up, some people argue that they're happy with their clubs, and hence state that they don't (*perceive*) the need for specific time or energy to be spent on growth.

If that is indeed the case, why then do people like me spend time (*such as this article I hope you will read!*) talking about growth?

- Membership growth increases our ability to help more people in more places
- New members bring new ideas, enthusiasm, leadership and energy to our organisation
- New members brings increased opportunities for fellowship and friendship
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Surely no one would disagree that these are all worthwhile objectives?

The reasons that people join volunteer organisations like Kiwanis are as many and varied as there are people and projects. Common reasons which often come up however include

- Some people volunteer because they love helping others, and the reward they receive is the joy of giving and helping others.
- Some people volunteer out of a wish or desire to give something back to the community
- Some people volunteer to provide a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives!

- Some people volunteer to gain experience or develop their personal or professional networks
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Long term studies have shown that volunteers live longer, are in better health, have lower rates of depression and less heart disease

Volunteering is good for YOU

So ... if volunteering is good for us as members, and is good for the community as well ... why isn't everyone a volunteer?

I had cause a couple of months ago to work out some statistics based on our district membership which may be of interest to some.

For those Australia District Kiwanians with known birthdays, the average age at joining Kiwanis was

Members who joined up to (end of) 1980	38 years old
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Members who joined between 1981 and 1995	44.66 years old
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Members who joined between 1996 and 2011	52.93 years old
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General News

Cont...

To put it another way, as the average age of our membership has increased over the years, so to has the age of the majority of people that we are asking to join – which is of course a trend that, if it is not arrested, will ultimately lead to the death of Kiwanis in Australia ... and of course an awful lot of people in the community who benefit from our service missing out.

Nearly 45% of our membership is aged 61 or older, whilst only under 4% are aged below 40 years of age

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Growth **IS** possible and, as the earlier statistics show, with around 15% of our current members are aged 71 or greater **We not only need to grow, but more importantly need to attract younger members.**

Do we know and understand exactly as clubs and a District exactly who the people are that we wish to attract as members?, and further than that are we ensuring that the product we are offering (ie Kiwanis) is **relevant and meaningful** to the type of members that we wish to attract? =

One other aspect of growth worth mentioning at this point is that to maintain our status of a Kiwanis District, we need to ensure we have a minimum of 1000 members and at least 25 Kiwanis Clubs. We're fine on the number of Kiwanis Clubs but are short on the number of members (we're currently sitting at around 940).

Kiwanis International has been tolerant thus far of our membership numbers, but it has not escaped their attention than we are below District strength, and action will be taken at some stage if it is not resolved. Countries before us have had their district status removed, and we certainly don't want Australia to join them through complacency.

Is growth achievable?

If each club in Australia achieved a net gain of just one member, we'd achieve 5% growth

We have Terrific Kids being conducted in approximately 100 schools around Australia. If you assume for example a school of 500 children, when you do the maths that works out to an extended school community of around 3000+ parents, grand parents and teachers – all of whom **should** be aware of Kiwanis and how we are helping the children.

If each of our existing 100 school communities was asked to contribute just **1** member from these 3000+ people to help the program continue, as a District we'd achieve a 10% growth from this alone.

We have (at least) 2 Key Clubs and 1 Circle K club in the District which would collectively lose around 30 – 40 members per year. Perhaps we should be looking to establish Past Alumni Satellite Club(s) to encourage these past members to stay in our organisation.



General News

If we want to attract younger members, one way of finding them is to recruit from the areas that younger people are more likely to be involved with – to whit our schools. Kiwanis is the leading service organisation ***in the world*** when it comes to our school based programs – our Service Leadership Programs (SLP) are the envy of every other service organisation in the world. Is your club involved with SLP programs, and if so are you working to form strong relationships between the SLP members and Kiwanians.



Governor David and others at the recent Aspac Convention

Our District has contributed hundreds of thousands of hours and millions of dollars of aid to the community over about 44 years, let's all work together to make sure that Kiwanis Australia District and our clubs not only endure but prosper for many more years into the future.

Many of us don't think that we can really make a difference. The opportunities to make a real difference and impact the lives of others present themselves everyday. The question is, will we take advantage of them or let them pass by like an afternoon breeze?



Until next time, thank you all for the service you provide to Kiwanis and the community and particularly thank you for caring enough to want to be members of our great organisation.

David Allen

Kiwanis Australia District Governor

2010 / 2011



Readers Articles



MS Australia 24 hr Megaswim

Some of the swimmers

On the 9th and 10th of April the Kiwanis Club of Waverley hosted the 2nd Annual 24 hour MS Australia Megaswim at Aqualink Nunawading.

Last year we had 4 teams entered and we raised \$10,000 which was a fantastic effort first up. However this year, we had bigger plans in mind. When we first kicked off this year's preparations, our aim was 8 teams and \$20,000 – double our efforts from last year. So how did we go? Well – I'll let the suspense build for now.



The event started well with Ben Stennett, Mayor of Whitehorse opening the event along with Simone from MS Australia. They both talked about the event and the importance of the event, with Simone in particular able to give a fantastic insight in to what is like to have MS and how the funds we raise make a difference to someone with MS. We were then lucky to have Dee Ryall, State Minister for Mitcham blow the siren and get the swimmers under way.

– the event raised just over \$29,000 for MS Australia – nearly triple what we did last year and \$10,000 more than our original target. Not a bad weekend's work!!!



Readers Articles

Newcastle club

Newcastle and Circle-K members delivered over 700 cards and flowers to Aged Care facilities in our area on Mother's Day.

This has been a favourite project of ours for over 20 years and one that we enjoy sharing with our young Circle-K members. Needless to say the elderly mothers get great enjoyment from our visit - particularly when we bring our very young helpers along.

This year we had young Madeline, Kye and Paige along and they were pretty "hugged out" by lunch time. Madeline is the eldest daughter of Newcastle member Dan Sheather, and Kye and Paige went visiting with grandad Ken Archer.



Mooroopna Park Primary School - Bike Repair Program

Bikes are collected from the community, friends, even though the local police.

This program is now in its fourth year. The program, held in term two, is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna.

This program originally was a one-on-one mentoring program, primarily for the young boys. After the first program was held several girls said "what about us?" Girls are now included too. Depending on the number of Kiwanians that are able to make their time available, there are up to four students each program.

The students pick out a bike, and with the help of kiwanians, undertake the necessary repairs to make it "roadworthy". This means checking and repairing the likes of brakes and gears, repairing punctures and changing tires. The looks on the student's faces after taking the bike for that first test ride is a sight to behold.

At the end of the program, at the assembly, the students are presented with the bikes they repaired, together with a helmet and certificate.

To indicate the success in this program, I must relay a comment overheard from a teacher commenting on the students as they returned from a session bike repair, "all of them were positively beaming." Did they enjoy this, or what?

**Ian Saunders & Jim Douglass,
Mooroopna Ki**





Club News

East Maitland Club

Cont...

The Coal River Working Party in conjunction with East Maitland Kiwanis club held the inaugural Newcastle Amazing Race to launch the National Trust Heritage Festival 2011 and in celebration of Kiwanis-One Day.

There were 21 registered teams who set off from outside the Newcastle Maritime Centre and raced through the urban Newcastle landscape on foot solving clever clues that led them to eight historical sites and completing fun challenges. Teams dressed up in various colourful themes – winners were Anthony and friends, second The Amazing Face and third placed were The Family. Other favourites were The Bio Wizards, Where's Wally's and The Robert Smiths. All participants declared at the end that they wanted to take part again at our next event – ensuring a bigger, more successful experience.

On this first occasion we have raised over \$2000 toward Vera Deacon Regional History Fund and Lifeline.

The beneficiaries:

The purpose of the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund is to support and encourage regional history through the acquisition, preservation and study of valuable regional historical resources. This fund will enable the University to uncover, preserve and safeguard Newcastle and the Hunter region's important archives and documentary heritage for future generations.

As an extension of Lifeline's crisis telephone counselling service and in response to the needs that we have identified in our community, Lifeline Newcastle & Hunter provides Personal Counselling, Financial Counselling as well as Community Education Programs designed to enhance living skills and improve self-confidence.

A great set of photos of the Amazing Race

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/sets/72157626284691039/show/>



Club News

Kiwanis Bayside Internet Club Membership Growth Campaign

July 1st 2011 is the 4th anniversary since Kiwanis Australia's only internet club was organised.

Attracting prospective members is affecting this club as much as any other community service club.

Following our announcement about discounted annual Membership Dues, we have decided to have a widespread campaign which involves publicising an invitation for new members as depicted on a flyer copy of which appears with this report.

Our Club Members are encouraged to take pdf copies of the flyer to public libraries, clinics, sporting venues, and schools. Publishing the notice in schools' and weekly newsletters would be an advantage.

We are also distributing copies of it to potential members who we know cannot for some reason or other attend regular club meetings. Reasons could relate to not driving at night-time, moving house to an area where there are no Kiwanis Clubs close by, having a young family who need minding in the evenings, tertiary students studying full time, and employed people who often travel interstate, those on holidays travelling around Australia, outback dwellers, mine workers, and remote work stations.

These are the same reasons why this unique club was organised in 2007 when Kiwanis Australia District's Membership was just below the 1,000 mark. We managed to add on quite a few new members then. In actual fact adding to the District's membership was my priority before and after I started building it in January that same year, following in the steps of North American KI e-clubs.

This year, until September, the District needs 50 more members to keep on going. District Clubs may help recruiting new members and recouping ex-members by referring them to our Bayside e-Club.

Beni Avallone



Kiwanis Bayside Internet Club Inc

Welcomes New Members

Computer literate women, men, and youth over 18 who are of good character and willing to do volunteer 'hands-on' community service

'Working With Children' Certificate/ID required once new members are approved by the Club Board (within a month)

No Joining Fee. \$80 Annual Membership Dues are pro-rata until September

No other costs involved

Meetings held online in Skype Chat Room twice monthly at 7.30pm AEST

Contact: beniavallone@yahoo.com.au

Club info: www.e-kiwanisbayside.org.au



Kiwanis One Day

Some stories from the clubs about their Kiwanis One Day activities :

"We Shall Fix It One Day!"

Some time ago it was realised that our partnership with Marillac (to assist them with the raising of the funding for and the development of a Sensory Garden for the benefit of the young people with mental disabilities in their care) was not involving the majority of our members. After discussions with Marillac staff, a number of small projects of a physical nature, which had the potential to involve more members, were identified. The project with the highest priority and the one deemed most practicable, was to refurbish an outdoor setting of table & chairs at one of their houses of care. It was expressed at that time – **"we shall fix it one day"**!

Some time later, that **One Day** arrived, thanks to Kiwanis International. Several members presented themselves (fairly scruffy they were too!) on the day to clean, sand & oil the outdoor setting. Notably present were - **Tim the Toolman** (who needed help to get in and out of his boilersuit!), **Dawn the Diva** (who made up for the absence of a dawn chorus!), **Len the Liquidator** (who keep the liquids up to us!) and **Geoff the Gopher** (who kept going for things from the cars!).

So the good news is, **we did fix it on Saturday the 2nd of April 2011**. As world time goes, we must have been one of the first Clubs in the world to take part and to share in the Kiwanis International "One Day" event. We all had a good time, plenty of laughs and we came away, well satisfied with the transformation we had achieved with the outdoor setting, even if we did smell like pieces of furniture ourselves! We sincerely hope that other participating Clubs around the world had as much fun as we did.

Ian Howison



Newcastle Club

Newcastle members shared in their "Kiwanis One Day" project a little later than originally planned this year, as some of the Heartkids families were unable to make it on that day.



Some of the kids on the day



Kiwanis One Day

Cont...

However, on Sunday 31st April, 20 families, including around 30 children, enjoyed getting up-close and personal with the animals at Oakvale Farm near Newcastle. Heartkids NSW paid the entrance fee for the children and Kiwanis provided the BBQ lunch. The weather was kind and from all accounts a fun day was had by everyone.



Adelaide club

Adelaide Kiwanis Club, for the Worldwide Kiwanis One Day on April 2, we had a working bee at secretary Ken Foggo's place where we had a dozen in attendance through the day.

We managed to clean out Ken's garage with a lot of gear that had been stored, and also made up over 50 Kiwanis Street Packs/Care Kits which will be distributed via Janine v. soon.



Some of the club



Lots of sorting going on



Kiwanis Heartkids

Kiwanis "HeartKids" National Project

It is time for all clubs to start thinking about forwarding their annual contribution to our national HeartKids project. The pooling of our resources in this way has enabled us to fund some significant items/programs/research over the last five years.

Last year's effort of just over \$30,000 resulted in the purchase of a vital piece of equipment for the Royal Children's Hospital ICU in Melbourne and the funding of important programs for HeartKids NSW and HeartKids SA in addition to a final donation to the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin for the completion of Project Gecho.

"Heart kids" and their families from all over Australia are benefitting from our support.

Contributions must be forwarded by early August in order for us to have a yearly total to announce at our District Convention and so that the Board of Trustees can consider allocation proposals at its August meeting.

Although there are only three months to go, it is not too late for clubs to organize another fundraising activity to boost their 2011 contributions!

Cheques payable to "Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Trust" should be sent to Bryan Williams by early August.

Phil Riggio and Ted Kitto





Kiwanis International

KIF Report:

It was nice to read that the Children's playground has been opened to the people of Marysville, The Kiwanis International Foundation contributed a grant from there disaster fund of US\$20,000. I would like to thank the Kiwanians who spent many hours bringing this project to its successful conclusion, a job well done that will be a great boost to the Kiwanis Brand and the Children living there.

The grant came from funds raised through the annual Club Gift Campaign, if your Club has not taken up the offer to make a gift to the Foundation, please consider this as part of your clubs "Supporting the Children of the World" projects. I would like to thank those clubs who have made gifts and assure them that Children from around the world will be forever grateful.

When making a Gift please send your donations the Australia District Treasurer or Secretary, do not send it directly to the Foundation or your Club could miss out on District recognition. The forms that are handed out to the Clubs by the Lt/Governor tells you to send Gifts to the Foundation in America, our District is not large enough for the Foundation to run a print just for the Australia District. All Gifts received by the 30th of September will be counted in this Kiwanis Year, that could make a difference between your Club being a distinguished Club or not.

Since 1939, Kiwanians have turned to the Kiwanis International Foundation as a way to extend their reach and legacies. Your gift-whether it's an annual gift, a one time donation, a planned gift or something in between-is a natural expression of your Kiwanis service and your dedication to the Kiwanis mission.

Like you, we take our responsibilities very seriously; To unite the Kiwanis family so that together, we can be a safety net for all the children everywhere.

Ivan Bell





K-Kids

KIWANIS REALLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE **The Mount Barker South Primary School** **K-Kids Club.**

Back in the mid 1990's, when The Kiwanis Club of the Adelaide Hills became aware of specific needs within the Special Class at Mount Barker South Primary School, little did the Kiwanis Members realize that it was the beginning of a long and rewarding association with the School Community and a staff of very dedicated teachers:

In the early days Kiwanis assisted with the purchase of a number of items of equipment, including phones for hearing impaired students and specialised equipment, without which a disabled child would not have been able to attend school, just to mention a few.

The Mount Barker South Primary School, with over 175 students, has a very high proportion of single parent families, and currently has 60% of students on school card, 23.5% of students with a disability, including two Special Classes of mostly autistic children. Interestingly, there is also a small band of very supportive parents who assist within the school, or will always turn out for working bees etc.

In 2001 the Hills Kiwanis Club was very proud to be able to sponsor the first K-Kids Club in Australia at the Mt Barker South Primary School and it was evident right from the start that students in the K-Kids Club gained tremendously in confidence, self esteem, and a greater exposure to needs within the Community.

The K-Kids, at the end of 2009, was going through a quieter period with the imminent danger of going into permanent recess for a number of reasons, but the younger students coming through to be eligible to be members wanted there to be a K-Kids Club.

The timing of the arrival of a new principal at the School, Catherine Cox-Walliss, could not have been better. On becoming aware of the nature and functions of the K-Kids Club, and being about to interview a student Counsellor, she ensured that one of the functions of the student Counsellor would be to assist with the K-Kids Club. The new Counsellor, Robbie was soon appointed and very quickly, together with her husband, joined the Hills Kiwanis Club and the K-Kids Club was going to continue.

The Hills Kiwanis Club were recently made aware that the School was funding and providing sandwiches for a good many students who were coming to school with no food at all. Some were coming with little or inappropriate food such as dry noodles or a small bag of chips. Fruit was unusual for this group of students. Unfortunately, dysfunctional family life is a norm for many of these children. A request to assist the School with funds to support their Breakfast Club was immediately supported by the Kiwanis Club.

The K-Kids Club members were discussing the breakfast club and decided that they would try and assist, and this has now developed to the extent that the K-Kids are now, with minimal adult supervision, running the Breakfast club between 8.10 am and 8.40 am each morning before school. Breakfast consists of toast with toppings, fruit and a Milo milk drink and the numbers of students attending has grown to the 35 to 40 mark.

At a recent meeting of the Hills Kiwanis Club, Members were impressed by Jack, a member of the K-Kids Club, who spoke at the meeting about the Breakfast Club and how he ensured that the Milo was correctly portioned out and there was no double dipping or waste. On speaking to his mother, who was also at the meeting, it was great to hear of the self esteem and confidence that Jack had gained since being a member of the K-Kids Club. Jack's story is just one of the many that can be heard over the years from many former members of the K-Kids Club.



K-Kids

cont...



K-Kids Members pictured following their presentation of Club Membership Certificates during the School assembly





The Last Page

Vale

Vale Ian Robert Carruthers.

Newcastle Kiwanian until he retired to live in Kansas USA in 2010

Bob had twice been a Lt Governor for Division 2, and many members may know and remember him and his Service work with Kiwanis over the years

Glen Hazelwood from the Kiwanis Club of Glenelg, SA.

Glen was a Foundation Member of the Glenelg Club and his wife Lorna is also a member. Glen will be sadly missed by all associated with him

LG Division Two 2007/8 and 2008/9

On behalf of Australia District Governor David Allen, the Board of Trustees and the many Kiwanians that knew these men, we offer our sincere condolences to their immediate families and respective clubs

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.

Submitting Articles, feedback or contacting the Editor.

Please feel free to send information or requests for articles to me anytime. You can contact me as follows:

AK@kiwanis.org.au

Please add me to all your club distribution lists, as the easiest way to let me know what is happening at your club.

Or snail mail me at 2/1 Heath Terrace
Kingaroy Qld 4610 (new address)