Hope you enjoy. If you have an article to include in future newsletters, please forward to sydney@kiwanis.org.au

#Kids need Kiwanis!

Do you want to help kids? Kiwanis Sydney needs your help to continue our work in the local, Australian and world communities. Come along, obligation free, to one of our monthly meetings, or a Bunnings barbeque to meet the team, or simply meet with one of our members over a coffee and hear about what we do and how you can help. You will meet new friends and get that warm feeling from helping kids in Sydney Children's Hospital, HeartKids, Sir Eric Woodward School, Giant Steps, Nepal or others. Contact us at sydney@kiwanis.org.au

Exodus Foundation

Two of our regular young helpers have again saved some of their pocket money to donate to helping the homeless. They have done this for the last few years by donating their savings to the Rev. Bill Crew’s Exodus Foundation. It is great that such young ones are already thinking of others. I am sure this ethos comes from mum, Vikki and grandmother Patricia, both members of Kiwanis Sydney.

RFS proves impactful speaker

Captain Andrew Wilson and Senior Deputy Captain Matt of the Killara RFS came and spoke at our February meeting. They talked about the RFS in general, Killara brigade, what we should do to prepare for fire and showed a video of their defence of a home in Bilpin in the recent fires.

The Bushfire Brigade was established in the early 1900’s. The 1993-94 fire season saw the most protracted and largest firefighting effort in Australian history to that date with 18,300 volunteer firefighters deployed at over 800 fires throughout NSW. Four lives and 206 houses were lost. The subsequent Coronial Inquiry eventually resulted in the Government introducing legislation for a single Rural Fire Service in 1997 with a single chain of command. Phil Koperberg AO, AFSM, BEM as Commissioner was to head this single Service. www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the world’s largest volunteer fire service. Their members provide fire and emergency services to approximately 99 percent of the State’s land area. The geographic area of NSW is 800,630 square kilometres, which is approximately 10.4 percent of the Australian land mass. There are over 72,000 volunteers in the RFS who are supported by 900 staff.

NSW RFS members attend a range of incidents and activities:
- Bush and grass fires
- House and structure fires
- Storm damage
- Search and rescue
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Community education
- Bush fire mitigation.

In 2018 there were 27,000 incidents plus 2,600 hazard reductions undertaken by the 2,000 brigades across NSW.

Killara is a brigade in formation and currently has 2 fire trucks with 40 volunteers. Their brigade is housed at the Warringah Brigade while they wait for a new shed to be built in Killara. The shed will be built by the NSW Government who also supply the fire equipment and safety clothing. The Killara volunteers are fundraising for the eventual fit-out of the shed with furniture and items to cater for the volunteer’s comfort. The brigade has meetings weekly on Saturdays, and volunteers attend as they can.

Andrew encouraged us all to consider a Fire Plan of 4 steps:-

**STEP 1 DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME**

Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focussed. By taking 20 minutes with your family to discuss what you’ll do during a fire, you could save their lives, as well as your home.

**STEP 2 PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON**

There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

**STEP 3 KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS**

If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the ‘Fires Near Me’ app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.

**STEP 4 KEEP THE BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND THE SMARTPHONE APP**

In a bush fire, it’s important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

You can download the checklists at https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan

Andrew and Matt showed a video of their brigade fighting the recent fires near Bilpin. Their mission was to save a house in the middle of the forest about 500 metres off Bells Line of Roads down a narrow access road. The owner had cleared a significant fire break around the house and had 40,000 litres of water. The video of only 4 ½ minutes shows as the fire roars towards them, turns the sky to dark in the afternoon, the ember attack ahead of the fire front, the noise of the fire, and the fire passing over the house and brigade. The brigade could only use their water and resources to extinguish embers and spot fires to the house, as the bush fire was too intense to fight. The house was saved, and the aftermath showed some burning trees and a major pile of cleared logs on fire near to the house.

Our members were amazed at the bravery and coolness of the firies as they wait, face the arrival of the fire front, defend the house and then mop up afterwards. Our sincere thanks go to all firies who have put their lives at risk to protect us and others.

Thankyou to Andrew and Matt for taking the time to talk to Kiwanis Sydney about your work. Very enlightening for all. Our Board has since met and agreed to contribute significant $ to RFS Killara to help with their new station when built.
Fun at Mini Convention!

Division 2 of Kiwanis Australia holds a mini convention each year at Tea Gardens in late February.

While there is a business session on Saturday morning, which this year ran from 9am to 1.30pm, the primary focus of attendees is to rekindle friendships and have fun with other Kiwanians. Attendees came from Brisbane, East Maitland, Newcastle, Sydney, Beachside Newcastle, Melbourne, Geelong, Shepparton and Adelaide.

The weekend included the interstate golf game played at Bulahdelah which was won by Brisbane. Friday night saw the annual quiz night with Jeff as quiz master. Saturday business meeting elected Mary Greenwood as Lieutenant Governor Elect for 2020-21 for her 2nd year in the job. Past Governor Jan Hyde then conducted an education session for leaders and members with a focus on preparing an iPlan for each club. Discussions and questions were many, indicating that participants were stimulated by the session. Saturday afternoon then adjourned to the annual disc game for the “Sunshine Cup”. Rae and Bob from East Maitland were the winners this year.

Saturday’s theme night is always the highlight! This year’s theme was “Back to School” and as usual, all got into the spirit. We were met by the school principal Miss Brown (Jenny) with cane and whistle and lined up to drink our bottle of milk. The milk was nothing like I remember enhanced with a couple of shots of alcohol. Orders for dinner were placed at the Tuck Shop from the menu of pies, sausage rolls and pasties, later served in brown paper bags. Games on the night included tunnel ball, hockey with a balloon and match the “about me” sentence to one of the 40 in the hall. Great fun was had by all.

Sunday saw us all on our way home after breakfast of egg and bacon rolls and goodbyes to all.
Signature Project!

Each Kiwanis club is asked to select and document their “Signature Project”. It should be recurring, enhance the Kiwanis brand, have significant impact and strengthen membership and partnerships. By writing up the project it gives all club members a reference when they are asked “What does Kiwanis do?”

Kiwanis Sydney have selected Sir Eric Woodward School as their signature project. Below is this project.

Sir Eric Woodward School (SEWS)

Background

SEWS, a special school in St. Ives in northern Sydney, caters solely for children with special needs. The school has two education delivery modes being six (6) face to face classes of approximately 40 students plus a Distance Education unit supporting approximately 50 students from all around NSW learning by "correspondence" in their own homes.

The school is well resourced to support each student’s individual needs. SEWS offers a number of specialised programs including integrated services of a physiotherapist, occupational therapist and speech pathologist for all students enrolled. The school is dynamic in supporting all students with a holistic approach, through modifying the curriculum to support rich authentic learning opportunities.

Even though the school caters for Kindergarten to 12, our Terrific Kids program fits well across all the school years. Each child strives to master new life skills, with much coaching and support from the school staff, volunteers and their tutors.

Our Terrific Kids program highlights these achievements with special awards.

For some of the Distance Education students our Terrific Kids award is the first recognition from any external source they have ever achieved.

Recurring

Our association with SEWS started in July 2013 when the mother of a child at SEWS with Pallister Killian Syndrome (PKS) was a guest speaker at a Kiwanis Sydney meeting. In April 2014, for Kiwanis One Day, we did a gardening project at the school. We supplied plants and materials, weeded several gardens and transplanted many plants to more appropriate locations.
Our association with SEWS has continued in each of the ensuing five years and our support has grown to include Terrific Kids four times each year, gardening projects, painting of outdoor pergola, catering for special events, attendance at their Anzac ceremony and Annual presentation day each year.

**Enhance the Kiwanis brand**

For our very first gardening project at SEWS we decided that we should all have Kiwanis Sydney T-shirts to advertise our presence and look like a team. Wearing of club T-shirts has continued with all projects and we now have a Kiwanis Sydney banner used for visual promotion.

Our Terrific Kids program is always badged with Kiwanis. We include a brochure of Kiwanis, TK stickers and a fridge magnet in the pack given to the student in order that the parents can learn about Kiwanis. At the Education Week presentation in Term 3 and the end of year presentation in Term 4, Kiwanis gets a chance to present the awards in front of all the community and parents in attendance. SEWS also presents Kiwanis with a Certificate of Appreciation at each end of year presentation day.

SEWS has a magazine they publish regularly. They credit Kiwanis for any Terrific Kids presentations and acknowledge other work completed at the school by Kiwanis.

Our Facebook page is enhanced by the stories about the children we help at SEWS. There are at least five posts each year.

**Significant Impact**

At our initial gardening day back in 2014 we sat with the Principal during morning tea and discussed Terrific Kids and how it could be applied to SEWS. Principal Jo welcomed the concept and we presented our first Terrific Kids in September 2014. Since then we have been back twenty-two (22) terms to present Terrific Kids awards. That makes 44 children we have rewarded directly through Terrific Kids. Each day that the 40 face-to-face students attend school they enjoy the benefit of the enhanced gardens and playgrounds.
A secondary impact is the number of Kiwanis Sydney members who have undoubtedly had their "Kiwanis moment" when visiting the classrooms or through interactions with the children at school presentations.

**Strengthen membership and partnership opportunities**

Kiwanis Sydney has taken on three new members over the years stemming from our association with SEWS and it's students.

A partnership has been formed with Bunnings (major hardware supplier) after we worked together on some gardening projects at SEWS. Hence Kiwanis Sydney has been able to approach Bunnings to sponsor the supply of plants and garden supplies when needed.

SEWS Principal Jo and one of the teachers have also been to a Kiwanis meeting to speak about the school and our valuable association.

**Growth of our club!**

At our February meeting we had the pleasure of welcoming two new members to Kiwanis Sydney.

Katherine Benn and Sajeev Menon. Their induction takes our membership to 19. Katherine and Sajeev were both sponsored by Naz and they have already helped out at barbeques, Australia Day and been to our meetings. The welcome and induction was led by Naz and Steve.

Welcome to Katherine and Sajeev!

We are pleased that we also have Rajni, Ingrid and Mel who have asked to become members. With these new members Kiwanis Sydney will grow to 22 which takes us past Charter II strength of 20. This is the first time our club has been to this level in several years.

The great thing about more members is that we can do more service, share the great things we do with new people and I am sure the new members will bring new ideas to our club.

**Kiwanis Sydney Board Meeting**

We try to keep business out of our monthly meetings by holding Board meetings every 2nd month. The Board consists of President (Naz), President Elect (Vikki), Immediate Past President (Jeff), Treasurer (Angelique), Secretary (Cathy) plus 3 other members (Dave, Robert, Steve) elected at our Annual meeting. The Board approves new members, approves expenditure of club funds within the guidelines of the Club Funding Policy, the Projects budget and the expressed views of the club members.
Usually our Board meetings are done online via GoToMeeting, however this month we conducted a face-to-face meeting at Tea Gardens on Saturday 22nd February 2020.

At this Board meeting we approved donations to:-

- Rainbow Children’s Home in Pokhara Nepal to provide schooling for orphans and warm clothing to villagers
- Harding Miller Foundation towards sponsorship of a Year 9 gifted girl to continue her secondary schooling.
- RFS Killara to help with fit-out of their new brigade shed when built.
- Hampers project to continue providing hampers to farmers and/or fire affected families.
- Comfort Care Cases through Sydney Children’s Hospital Randwick for this years sponsorship
- Aussie Farmers helping farmers suffering from drought, flood or fire.
- Hornsby Kur-ring-gai Women’s Shelter to help house displaced women

Rainbow Children’s Home – Nepal

Principal Goma sent thanks for our support of her students and reported that “I am happy to inform you that our children school result has been published. Almost all the children scored outstanding results. I have attached the result with their mark card. Thank you so much for your great help and supporting directly and indirectly. Through your help and support our children were able to go to school for receiving education.” A typical report card is shown, out of 35 reports received.

Events Coming Up: 2020

Kiwanis ASPAC Convention - Thurs 5th to Sat 7th March in Kathmandu, Nepal

Meeting - Wed 11th March - Chatswood RSL 6.30pm to 8.00pm, contact Angelique angelique.mastoroudes@gmail.com

Bunnings BBQ, Artarmon - Sun 22nd March 8.30am to 4.00pm

Meeting - Wed 8th April - Chatswood RSL 6.30pm to 8.00pm –

**Guest Speaker – Ruchi Liyange – Child Development Centre in Sri Lanka**

Bunnings BBQ, Artarmon - Sun 19th April 8.30am to 4.00pm

Mothers Day Cards and Flowers at Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home - Sat 9th May

Meeting - Wed 13th May - Chatswood RSL 6.30pm to 8.00pm – **Annual Meeting and Elections**

Bunnings BBQ, Artarmon - Sun 17th May 8.30am to 4.00pm

Meeting - Wed 10th June - Chatswood RSL 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Bunnings BBQ, Artarmon - Sun 14th June 8.30am to 4.00pm
Deserving Causes we have helped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick - Comfort Care Cases</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Eric Woodward School - Terrific Kids and gardening</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Children First Foundation - life changing medical help for children</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>HeartKids Australia - research into children's heart disease and local respite</td>
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<td>Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Womens Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliminate - Kiwanis / UNICEF program to stop newborns and mothers dying from tetanus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainbow Children's Home Nepal - house and educate orphans</td>
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<td>Nepalese school children - Aust. Himalayan Foundation and Tribal Foundation</td>
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<td>Harding Miller Foundation – part sponsorship of a Yr 9 girl for High School studies</td>
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<td>Bear Cottage and Soldier On thru Pollie Pedal</td>
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<td>Pallister Killian Foundation</td>
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<td>Noahs Ark Toy Library for children with special needs</td>
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<td>Giant Steps Chiswick - school for autistic children</td>
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<td>UNICEF Cycle for Children in Laos -</td>
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<td>Aussie Helpers to Farmers and thru Cobar Rotary Club and Hampers for farmers</td>
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<td>RFS Killara for fit-out of new brigade shed</td>
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<td>Longest Day Golf Challenge for Cancer Council - sponsored a golfer for 72 holes to support CC</td>
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<td>Endure for a Cure - Children's Cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exodus Foundation Rev Bill Crews - helping the homeless</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiwanis Children's Fund - various worldwide projects – annual club gift</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation – annual club gift</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home Lane Cove - Mother's day cards and flowers</td>
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<td>Alola Foundation - Timor Leste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation Rainbow / Kiwanis Club of Cebu - operating on cleft lip and palates</td>
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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.

Kiwanis Club of Sydney

Kiwanis Sydney Newsletter

February 2020