Kiwanis helps out at Special Olympics 2020 - read page 12

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2015 PRESIDENT JOHN BUTTON DIES - page 7
Eighteen Australian Kiwanis members and partners attended the ASPAC Convention in Kathmandu, Nepal at the beginning of March. A well-run Convention by the new Kiwanis Nepalese District which is growing rapidly and making a real impact in their country by supporting and developing programs to improve the lives of children and families in their community. The Convention saw the election of ASPAC Trustees positions go to Willy Aguilar from the Philippines and Buheita Fujiwara from Japan. Buheita has now been appointed as K.I. Board Counsellor for our Kiwanis Australian District.

Unfortunately as a result of the Covid-19 Global Pandemic and in the interest of the health and safety of Kiwanis members, our Kiwanis District Convention that was to be held at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf, in August will have to be cancelled and a resolution to that effect was passed at the May Board of Trustees meeting. While current restrictions on travel and social distancing requirements are in place, it has been pleasing to hear how Kiwanis Clubs are keeping in contact by telephonic or electronic means.

- Clubs have been adapting and finding new ways to support their communities.
- Supporting teachers to deliver the Terrific Kids programs:
- Delivering mother’s day cards to nursing homes and hospitals for the staff to distribute:
- Sponsoring an on line appeal for funding care packs for the needy:
- Several Clubs and individual Kiwanians answered a recent call for support from the Childhood Cancer Association who support families with children who have cancer; (which is one of the most stressful things a parent can experience and the uncertainty of COVID-19 is adding even more anxiety)

Hearing these many reports of what Clubs are continuing to do makes one very proud to be a Kiwanian. Hang in there, as the needs of Children and Families will be more than ever evident when we come out of these restrictions.

Kiwanis Australia District Executive members have been extra busy via phones and computers, and I’d like to thank them all for the extra effort and time expended in these challenging days.

‘A Year for Action not just Words.’ Have you asked someone to join Kiwanis?

Welcome to your new (sanitised & socially distanced) Australian Kiwanian which is the first to be produced under quite extraordinary times.

With all Clubs having operations suspended at the moment, one of my thoughts was, “how will we fill this June issue, if there’s hardly any events on”. There ended up being no worries on that score, as there’s always something happening in the world of Kiwanis, and as you’ll see when you read this 28 pager, it’s chock-full of items.

In fact, as usual, we’ve again had to hold over some items until the next (August) edition. That is partly due to four pages sadly of this issue being dedicated to Vales. For a while recently I would hold my breath when opening the Inbox, as emails informing of yet another fallen comrade seemed to be landing all too often.

A genuine Stop Press has been run for 2015 International President John Button who passed away a few days ago. I had the pleasure of meeting Dr Button at the last Indianapolis Convention, and his obvious sense of humour and infectious dedication to Kiwanis was always to the fore.

On the better news side of things, well done to Adelaide Hills Club, who scored a podium in the International Signature Project competition, which was judged despite the Convention in Indianapolis not being able to be held. We’ll need to wait and see how the decision is made for 2020 International Vice-President from the five candidates, as this has always been done by Convention delegates casting votes. While our own District Convention, set down for August in Hahndorf, is unable to proceed, this could make for interesting times as we seek a Governor-Elect for 2020/21 Kiwanis year. Stay tuned on that one! Our current Governor-Elect understandably opined at the last (electronic) Board meeting that so far, his planning for next year has already gone down the toilet.

The casualties from the worldwide C-19 pandemic continue to escalate, and from a Kiwanis viewpoint, we’ve lost this year’s International and our own District Conventions, Past Governors’ annual function, amongst many other activities. The most concerning being Bunnings barbecues bottoming out. Fingers crossed that we can return to sausage sizzling before too long - our fund-raising depends on it!

In these socio-iso times, here’s a brief explanation for the different photo of our Governor on p.2 (facing page). This is Ash’s new “corona” beard which has been a talking point and seems to be quite popular. Except with his wife Roslyn! Ash has indicated that an unintended result of his C-19 beard is that it helps with social distancing – especially at his house!

On a more serious note, and on topic, we are hoping that some venues that host our Kiwanis meetings (various hotels, clubs, pubs, motels, etc) don’t end up being too severely impacted by the COVID-19 shutdowns. There are true tales doing the rounds how some of these places may find it difficult to survive once the restrictions are more fully lifted. And that could leave some of our Clubs searching for new meeting venues.

It seems most Clubs have been “meeting” regularly lately via the Zoom platform, which at least enables Kiwanians to maintain contact. It seems the acceptance of this fairly new medium may even result in many Clubs (Division 6 is an example) soon trialling holding alternate fortnightly meetings, switching between regular contact and Zoom. Again, it’s an interesting road ahead.

Our best wishes go to Carole Chantry who has been rather unwell over in the West. Get well soon Carole.

In closing, always remember that bread is like the sun. It rises in the yeast, and sets in the waist. Keep enjoying Kiwanis, and ..... keep safe.

Cover main photo: Read up on page 12 about how Newcastle Kiwanians helped out earlier this year at a Special Olympics swimming event.

Secondary photo: District Treasurer Ken Archer was amongst a crew of Kiwanians distributing gifts on Mother’s Day, and instead of the traditional flowers, for 2020 the items included Freddo Frogs attached to a nice greeting card. Read more on page 10.

DEADLINE: Your next Australian Kiwanian is due out in mid-September, so the deadline for items to be submitted is August 31. Thanking you in advance for your contributions.
Outlined below is the process needed to apply for a KCF Club grant. Please check that you’re familiar with what is needed to lodge an application.

KIWANIS CHILDREN’S FUND

Club Grants
Activities supported within at least one of:
• Health
• Education
• Youth leadership development

Requirements:
• Kiwanis led?
• Recur at least once a year?
• Have at least 50% of work carried out by Kiwanis family members?
• Receive at least 25% total funding from club?
• Require no more than 40% from KCF?
• Have one additional funding partner besides KCF?
• Spend grant funds during following 12 months following awarding of funds?

Letter of inquiry (LOI)
1. Project overview: name/description
2. Number of children impacted
3. Why financial need
4. Timeline: Start / completion / other milestones
5. Impact chart: goal/activity / what will be measured /how will it be measured / current status / desired result
6. Community needs assessment: define scope/decide whether to go solo or collaborate / collect data / determine key findings / set priorities and create action plan / share findings.
7. Budget: total / what do you already have/club’s contribution / what are you asking for / if funded what specific aspects of the project will the grant fund.

Regards, BETTY D’AMORE KCF Chair
As we know, KIWANIS supports several organisations, with emphasis on helping children worldwide.

Apart from Kiwanis Children’s Fund, there’s HeartKids, eliMiNaTe, Childhood Cancer Association, and also the great work done through Children First Foundation, amongst others.

On pp14-15 the centre spread in this AK features the work of CFF, and a recent newsletter of theirs alluded to the encouraging continued recovery of co-joined twins Nima and Dawa, who underwent delicate surgery in Melbourne, November 2018 to separate their small bodies.

They have returned to Bhutan (in the Himalayas) and are now reportedly leading quite normal lives. CFF assisted by Kiwanis has helped in the much publicised efforts to give these twin girls a decent chance in life.

The newspaper article at right is one of many that would have appeared nationwide recently, recounting the twins’ now successful journey and how they are coping well. A win-win good news story. Grateful thanks to Children First Foundation.

The devastating effects of one of Australia’s most widespread nationwide disasters (from late 2019-early 2020) are still being felt, and full recovery will take quite some time.

Unfortunately the focus of rebuilding after the killer wildfires that affected every State in the nation, has been diluted somewhat by the unexpected, totally debilitating fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic caused by one single country, that has gripped the whole planet like no other before it, as regards affecting every nation.

Notwithstanding, it can be reported that up to late March, initial donations to the Kiwanis Bushfire Appeal supporting UNICEF totalled an impressive $43,433 - including $30,377 from Kiwanis Clubs in Japan. Many overseas nations pitched in (thank you Kiwanis District of NZ-South Pacific), and Australia is humbled and grateful by the support of these areas outside our own nation. Internally there were some very generous additions to the fundraising efforts by Clubs such as Geelong (A$10,000) and Glenelg, amongst many others.

It underlines how in times of crisis, the good side of humanity often shines through. The wildfire rebuild continues, albeit at a slightly slower pace due to the pandemic.

Shown left are Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna President Louis D’Amore and Tony Nappa presenting Liz Lodge (CFF CEO) with a cheque for A$1000 towards Children First. Well done Mooroopna!
Predictable, but still unpalatable. In these unprecedented COVID-19 times, there has been no real alternative but to call off our District Convention for 2020, where planning had been quite advanced, and a “good time” would have been assured for all.

This mirrors NZ-SP Convention (Aug 28-30), and also (crucially) the Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis late June, both suffering the same fate of needing to be called off. Like we said, unprecedented, but understandable. As regards the KI Convention which has not been previously cancelled in “peace times”, this leaves the dilemma of deciding on a Vice-President for our organisation, always voted on at KI Convention. The candidates for this important event were listed in the last (March) Australian Kiwanian, so we await the outcome from the election process that will now be followed.

Again, sad lines, but hopefully in the case of Australia District, us Kiwanians can “get together” in late August 2021 for our regular Convention. Do watch the website (and AK) for updates.

News from New Zealand-South Pacific District

Well done to the Kiwanis Club of Christchurch, NZ which made the cut for the Final 10 to be judged at this year’s International Signature Project for Tier 1 Clubs. Christchurch Club were amongst 155 entries in Tier 1, so they did well to get that far. Their project involved the local Women & Children’s Emergency Housing Shelter. Mothers and children needing shelter and refuge from abusive and violent relationships are helped by this Kiwanis Cub which recently renovated the Shelter’s kitchen. New cabinets and electrical work, along with new benchtops were added. Updating a two-bedroom unit is next on the list. [See next page for full results of Signature Project].

Past Governor GRAHAM MOULD has penned a COVID-19 witty ditty which is printed here. Sums up our efforts in Australia to keep occupied in a worthwhile manner during the nationwide Wu Flu shutdown!

A lament to the back shed

There was a great pile arising,
Inside the back shed door.
With hours to spare, nowhere to go,
’Twas a good time to explore.

I found I had a lot of things,
Hardly seen the light of day.
So with great angst I decided,
To throw some stuff away.

The stack kept on a’climbing,
I knew not where to stop.
Most things I felt were valuable,
To some local re-cycle shop.

But with all of them in lockdown,
I’ve looked at the pile again.
The battered hammer I think I’ll keep,
And also the rusty plane.

Other tired tools and nick nacks too
The cobwebs were revealing
I changed my mind – back to the grind
Those “treasures” proved too appealing.

In fact I’ve gone and put the lot,
Back where I found them stored.
I must find something more useful,
Next time that I get bored ....
Dr. John, as he was known, loved Kiwanis from an early age, tagging along while his father attended Kiwanis Club of Ridgetown, Ontario, meetings. John joined that Club in 1978, later serving as its President, having had a good grounding in his school Key Club and Circle K.

Professionally he was a family physician until retiring in 2011. In Kiwanis he’s been a Lt Governor, and Governor of Eastern Canada & Caribbean District (2004/5), before becoming a KI Trustee in 2009, eventually elevating to the highest office of International President for 2014-15.

KI Executive Director Stan Soderstrom tells how Dr John Button helped frame the vision for eliMiNaTe Project, directly inspiring thousands of donors to give to this worthwhile cause. He was a champion of eliMiNaTe, going out of his way to support it. He once took a cream pie to the face in Anaheim to raise US$217 on a visit to California, during KI Centennial celebrations.

During the Centennial celebrations for Kiwanis 100th in Indianapolis, 2015, Dr Button was at the helm, complete with his usual laconic quick witted humour on show.

“His legacy will live on in the lives he made better through his Kiwanis work,” was how Gunter Gasser paid tribute to his fellow International President.

“He not only was Dr John a great Kiwanian, he cared deeply about his family,” said 2015-16 Kiwanis International President Sue Petrisin. “He always smiled and laughed when he told stories about his grandchildren. That’s how I’ll always remember him.”

Dr Button was in hospital early June for heart surgery that went well, but a subsequent bout of pneumonia proved too hard to shake.

John is survived by his wife, Debbie, a son, daughter and several grandchildren. The legacy of this terrific man will live on.

Two issues ago of AK we reported on the passing of 1987-88 K.I. President Tony Kaisler. His predecessor Frank DiNoto (President in 1986-87) has just died, on June 1 in California, from complications for pneumonia. Frank (pictured here) presided in the year that International Convention passed the contentious (at the time) vote allowing women to join Kiwanis - a real break from tradition!

SIGNATURE PROJECT WINNERS FOR 2020

The worldwide pandemic forced the cancellation of International Convention in Indianapolis, but judging of the annual Signature Project proceeded and results have just been announced. Of the two categories - Tier 1 is for Clubs 27 members and smaller. Tier 2 covers Clubs over 28 members. Well done to Adelaide Hills Club who have emulated Bendigo Club’s 2019, when Bendigo scored runnerup with Book Boxes. This year there were 155 entries in Tier 1 and 212 Tier 2 entries, so to even make the Final 10 for judging was no mean feat. Here are the top 3 placegetters:

TIER 1 - GOLD PRIZE: Florida District (Kiwanis Club of Ormond Beach) - Building Home & Classroom Libraries
TIER 1 - SILVER PRIZE: Illinois East District (Kiwanis Club of Oak Lawn Area) - Helping with Feed 6 Mega Event (350 volunteers created 50,000 meals for 30 area food pantries)
TIER 1 - BRONZE PRIZE: Australia District (Kiwanis Adelaide Hills Club) - Kiwanis Book Shop. Income raised by this shop funds services for children and adults from underprivileged communities. The Club also gives Aus$5.00 Vouchers to students in the Terrific Kids programme to purchase books.

TIER 2 - GOLD PRIZE: SW District (Kiwanis Club of Prescott) - Life Annual Auction fundraiser
TIER 2 - SILVER PRIZE: Nebraska Iowa District (Kiwanis Club of Ames) - Teen Maze
TIER 2 - BRONZE PRIZE: Ohio District (Kiwanis Club of Mansfield) - Friendly House
GRANTS-IN-AID

Thanks to all our Clubs who have kindly donated to the Grants-in-Aid project. This year we will not have the opportunity to present the "usual" cheque for $30K as unfortunately there won’t be a national Convention. In addition due to the COVID-19 lockdown and the current lack of Bunnings sausage sizzles as a major source of fundraising, we are donating a slightly smaller $25K as a result. This was ratified by the BOT at its last meeting.

Due to the fact there will be no formal Convention for 2020, I will not be presenting the cheque for the Grants-in Aid to the CEO of Heartkids – Rob Lutter. Instead I will arrange a meeting with Rob after the original Convention date has passed, and I will present the cheque at that time, with the opportunity for some photos to share with you.

PROJECT – ROYAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

You will likely remember that the project Dr Bryn Jones is undertaking is to classify all the heart specimens collected at the Royal Children’s Hospital over a number of years. This classification is vital to the identification of the morbidity of CHD and use for research and training of upcoming cardiologists and cardiac surgeons along with the anaesthetists and cardiac nurses. (See photo above taken in 2018, showing Angela presenting the award to Dr Jones).

The collection will be classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, the new ICD-11. WHO Nomenclature.

This is part of a number of international collections and our cardiac specialists collaborate with their sister hospitals around the world. Kiwanis is doing a great job supporting this very worthy cause.

HEARTKIDS SUPER BOSS DAY

Super Boss Day is an annual fun initiative where principals, teachers, day care educators, students, businesses or anyone who would like to “fight crime for a day”, dresses up as Super Heroes to raise funds for HeartKids and support our children with CHD and their families.

It is usually as simple as a gold coin donation or organising a cake sale. Friday, June 19 was the date set aside this year as Super Boss Day. Hopefully the event went to plan, as fortunately the COVID-19 shutdown of businesses was starting to be eased around this time.
ALLAN LORD STEAM LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA HEARTKIDS

This Fun Day scheduled for Sunday April 26 was sadly postponed due to the COVID-19 virus and associated restrictions. We remain in contact with Lynette McCullough HeartKids Co-ordinator, the intention being to reschedule later in the year, all being well.

Pictured here with Angela are two of the steam train operators. We look forward to joining them again for a day of fun in the near future.

SOUTHERN FM RADIO - VICTORIA

A regular feature on this Community Radio Station is Moorabbin Club’s Tim Vine and myself on the community talkback program with hosts Molly May and Colin Tyrus. The Community half hour slot allows me to talk about our association and commitment to HeartKids and is received well by the community, according to feedback received.

Why not visit the Kiwanis Club of Moorabbin website, and have a listen to what we have to say or better still, listen in at 3pm first Tuesday of each month (via radio or internet).

Stay safe and well.

ANGELA RANDALL

NEWS FROM HILLS AKTION CLUB

Most AKtion Clubs around the District have been hibernating since the COVID-19 shutdown was introduced in March.

However Adelaide Hills AKtioneers plan on being ready for action again when restrictions are eased, hopefully by August.

Because the AKtion Club could not hold a proper AGM to decide officers for the 2020/21 year, it’s been decided the main office holders will “roll over” into the new Kiwanis year. So the President will remain as Michael Kellet, Vice-President Jeremy Tarca, Secretary Wendy Duffy, and Sam Reid retains the Treasurer’s portfolio.

Here’s a photo below taken last year when Club members received their new AKtion shirts – very striking they are too.

Mother’s Day in Newcastle

During the recent COVID-19 shutdowns, Newcastle Kiwanians still managed to remain active during May.

On Sunday May 10, the Club was able to carry out the annual Mother’s Day visitations to nursing homes, this year nine such places being on the delivery list. Our Kiwanis brethren delivered an impressive total of over 550 cards and chocolates. The restrictions in place at all nursing homes nationwide meant these thoughtful items couldn’t be delivered in person, so Ken Archer and his crew in each instance left them with staff at Reception, from where they would be distributed to residents.

Usually the delivered items include flowers but for this year they were substituted with choc Freddo Frogs, which would definitely be more edible than flowers!

This marks three decades that Newcastle Kiwanis Club members have been doing the Mother’s Day rounds, so, well done to them. Thanks to Mary Greenwood for the photos and information.
SPC Food Run – Geelong Kiwanis

COVID-19 restrictions did not deter Geelong Kiwanis Club from carrying out its annual SPC Food Run in 2020, with another great outcome being recorded.

On Thursday June 11, Brian Hicks Transport again helped out (big time) by arranging for pickup and delivery to Geelong of food items from SPC Ardmona Shepparton – hence this great event being known as the Kiwanis SPC Food Run.

For this year’s Kiwanis Food Run, five welfare agencies were the destination – Geelong Food Relief, Uniting Care Barwon Region, St Vincent De Paul, St Mary’s Pentry and Christ Church Breakfast Group. The donation from Geelong Kiwanis for 2020 will be over $16,800 which is dollar for dollar contribution made by the five supported agencies, bringing the total food cost purchased to an impressive total of well over $37,200.

The total retail value of food purchased is $47,000 – a superb result for a project which started from humble beginnings back in 1991. And still going strong.

This is a credit to the Kiwanis Club of Geelong.

Photos above show the huge Hick Transport truck loaded with SPC food and (bottom right) the SPC food unloaded awaiting pickup. In Photo A, we have Kiwanis members Graeme Munro, George Welsh, Past Governor Spencer Harding and (front) Jeff Bracken. Photo B shows members of St Mary’s Pantry making a food pickup. Well done to Geelong Kiwanis Club for continuing with this worthwhile project.
2020 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Newcastle Kiwanians trekked 50km to Cessnock, NSW on Sunday January 19 to help out with the local 2020 Special Olympics, hosted by the Hunter Valley Chapter of Special Olympics. Our Kiwanians were the official timekeepers, and while the weather was cloudy, for that time of year it was actually kind – not too hot! A good day was had by all, including the participants, with the event underlining our commitment to helping Children of the World. Thanks to Penny Boorer for supplying the photos.

SOS
(SAVE OLD SPECTACLES)

Since the inception of SOS in 1975 the District has collected about 700,000 pairs of disused spectacles, 15,000 of which originated from Western Australia. These discarded specs are regularly taken to the Optometrists Association where they are graded and then passed on to the Optometrist for Overseas Aid, who distribute them to needy folk in Third World countries. Not only do the recipients get to see properly but in some cases this has a spin-off in helping them to read and write and obtain useful employment. On the back of being able to see better. This could be among the most important projects that Australia District undertakes.

RAY PEEK Past Governor - 1986-87

(Many thanks to Ray for providing this item - printed as received)

Footnote: Maybe the current year (2020) was named after this project (20-20 Vision) . . . . .
The future’s looming, it seems we’re Zooming!!

In these COVID-19 times, many Kiwanis Clubs have been maintaining contact with members by hosting their meetings via the Zoom platform.

Whilst there can be a few small setbacks such as lacking that face-to-face factor, there have also been some “advantages”, such as not needing to travel to meetings, along with the relative ease of being able to log-in. Pictured above is a screen grab from the District’s latest Board of Trustees meeting. Whilst Kiwanis business could be transacted, a large drawback was that we couldn’t hold the usual Training Day, where incoming Board members are upskilled for the next Kiwanis year. The lack of “social interaction” and compromised strengthening of networking ties was another downer. But at least the Board could “get together”.

Pictured below is a recent gathering of Australia Online Club, which meets monthly via Go-To-Meeting, another electronic platform. The lineup here included no less than six past Governors along with Governor Ash Gore. KiwI Graham Chick from Christchurch, NZ has become a welcome regular at Online meetings, as a member. Graham was able to confirm that the NZ District Convention for 2020 is another victim of the global pandemic, with that event (due to be held in Christchurch in August) now sadly canned.

As at mid-June, many Clubs in Australia have begun tentatively starting to hold regular “normal” meetings again, which is encouraging news, now that government restrictions are being eased. That can’t come quick enough for some folk such as your AK Editor, who has found that lately electronic meetings have become “restricted” ever since Zoom had to introduce a compulsory upgrade to improve security. Computers with an Operating System more than a decade “old” generally have an O.S. that doesn’t support that upgrade, hence a sudden lack of traction. Oh well, such is life. (Windows7 now obsolete!)

To all Kiwanians, keep enjoying meeting together, either electronically or by traditional methods. “See You Soon”!
Children First Update

During May we celebrated National Volunteer Week which seems like the perfect opportunity to say thank you to Kiwanis Australia for the support provided to Children First Foundation.

The donations, the goods supplied to children and to The Retreat in Victoria – we thank you for the support given to events – the messages of appreciation from the kids, sums it up nicely.

There is a saying, “it takes a village to bring up a child”. Well, sometimes it can take two countries to bring up a child and that’s where the Foundation comes into play, but we can only do this good work thanks to the great support of people such as you Kiwanians. The CFF Staff, Board and of course the children say thank you, for your continued time, energy and commitment to making a difference.

As you would be aware, with the COVID-19 pandemic, all community events around Australia have been cancelled which has included CFF fundraising events.

The main events still on the Foundation calendar are the annual Gala Ball in Melbourne on October 24, and The Retreat Open Day on November 22 (both subject to review).

The Winter Appeal will shortly be sent out to all supporters of the Foundation and every donation will be very much appreciated. Whilst we don’t know when we’ll be able to bring more children to Australia for surgery, we need your help to make sure we are ready as soon as the borders re-open.

At the present time we are continuing to follow Government advice which places restrictions on any visitors to the Foundation office and The Retreat. There has been no opportunity for Kiwanians to enjoy the usual interaction with the kids so here is some news about what is going on with our beautiful, brave children.

Right: The children say, “Thank You”!

Above Kyla Joy and Rachael, chilling at the Retreat in Victoria.
Left: Some of the “crew” hanging out in the garden.
Above: Cheeky Koko transformed into Chef Koko and with a little help from Retreat manager Deb, rustled up a delicious Beef Rendang for the gang! The perfect dish for a cold winter’s evening before games and reading around the lovely warm fireplace.

Above: Chilling out in the barn is always a good option on a cold and wet day. Koko has been teaching Sonia to play pool – we reckon she’s about to take his crown as ‘pool champion’. Best watch out Koko!

Above: Little Christina has been giving her arms a good work out on the drums. We are pretty sure that if there was an award for the loudest drummer ever – Christina would pick up that accolade, no worries!

While it’s not exactly spring cleaning season, we’ve been taking advantage of these quieter times to spruce up The Retreat from top to bottom, and with everyone doing their bit to help out.

Above: Just like the whole nation during shutdown, we’re doing lots of walking at The Retreat. Nothing like a bit of fresh air to lift the spirits. We are so lucky to have such beautiful grounds to explore in Kilmore.

Right: As always, The Retreat is buzzing with creative activity. Christina and Nichole were desperate for a little house for their Barbie dolls, so Phoebe rounded up materials and set them on a construction project.
2020 ASPAC Training Conference & Convention was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Our District was well represented at both with a group of 18 in total.

**DAY 1 – MARCH 1**

Yvonne and I plus Ros and Ash Gore flew to Singapore. Here we met up with several of the other Australian Conventioneers and some of the New Zealand/South Pacific Team, arriving in Nepal mid-evening. We then travelled to our various hotels and for most, this was our initiation to the roads and traffic of Kathmandu!

DAY 2 – MARCH 2

An excellent breakfast menu at the Hyatt after which Yvonne and Ros left to catch up with Cathy and Steve Hughes, who were all heading for a three-day private tour to the Chitwan National Park and Forest.

The rest of the Aussies and a couple of the NZ/SP contingent rendezvoused in the morning and went for a walk to find our supply of “liquid” refreshments at a local supermarket. We then caught up with Jan and John Hyde plus Betty and Louis D’Amore who’d been out “bush” sightseeing. Later we relocated to the Hyatt Regency to take in the Training and Convention.

A brief get-together in Governor Ash’s room for an overdue drink before heading to the Training Conference/welcome reception.

**DAY 3 – MARCH 3**

Training Conference started soon after breakfast. Australia was represented by Governor Ash and some of the team for 2020-2021. That team comprised Jan Hyde (Leadership Development), Annette Holmes (standing in for SLP), Tony Gunn (Growth), Ken Archer (standing in for Governor-Elect Roy Seccaflan), Betty D’Amore (Kiwanis Children’s Fund), Ash Gore (Standing in for P/R and Marketing) and Peter Zander (District Secretary).

The Training was held over two days, led by International President-Elect Art Riley assisted by a number of Ki staff including Jeff Oatess (Operations), Chris Martz (Director Membership & Education), Katherin Chi (PR & Marketing), Brian Tenclinger (Area Director for Membership & Education) and Erin Bakemeyer (Executive Services) from K.I. Also attending were International President Daniel Vigneron, Kiwanis Children’s Fund representatives and several International Trustees, making the trip at their own expense.

Unfortunately some of the Districts had a small attendance, especially Taiwan who only had two members due to cancellations because of coronavirus concerns. It is worth noting that no one whatsoever travelling to Nepal contracted the Covid19 during their travel to or from Nepal.

There were several general presentations, starting with a Strategic Planning presentation by Art Riley, followed by Jeff Oatess on the current state of international membership, with special focus on Asia Pacific.

After morning tea we all went to various break-out areas, where I attended the District Secretaries sessions led by Erin, who had Bryce Kinder logged in from Indianapolis. This was quite interesting, with much time spent going through the online portal for District Administrators.

We joined together again for lunch, followed by another general session that focused on PR and Marketing plus some of the recent KI updates and assistance.

Following afternoon tea we returned to our positional break-out groups for more general discussions, with a question and answer segment for my group.

During a smorgasbord dinner, we sat and talked with the other District reps, adjourning later to Governor Ash’s room (Australia House?) for additional discussions about the day’s activities over a refreshing night-cap.

**DAY 4 – MARCH 4**

During breakfast with friend Angela Liu (many Kiwanians would remember Angela at Conventions in Darwin and Mildura as the Taiwanese interpreter for our Counsellor “George”), we were saddened to hear from Betty D’Amore, about Bill Craig’s passing. A very sad way to start the day.

The Second Day of our training gathering was spent reviewing the previous day’s activities, then working as a Team on aspects where we think our District needs to focus. After morning tea, each of the Districts presented their findings.

The Training Conference then concluded and we assembled for smorgasbord lunch. Yvonne and Ros joined in, having returned from their private tour and relayed what they’d seen. A big step out of one’s normal comfort zone, but an incredible experience nonetheless.

After lunch, a few decided on walking to look at the Stupa Temple, the largest of its kind in the world, which was only a short walk from the hotel. I had been there previously so it gave me a chance to visit the Convention Office and catch many of my Nepalese Kiwanian friends and colleagues. I was also able to give friends from the Kiwanis Club of Bagmati, a large parcel of warm clothing – donated prior to my previous trip to Nepal by the Prospect Kiwanis Club. I could only carry half that consignment on my previous trip to Nepal last
September. The Bagmati Club plan to distribute the clothing to a community orphanage that they support, which I had visited previously. The orphanage has 23 children aged 6 to 14, all from the local community. Many of the Australian contingent had brought items with them to donate and distribute to children through various projects in Nepal.

Dinner that evening saw Yvonne and I paired with Ash and Ros, Chris Cole and David Gower from New Zealand plus International Vice-President Art Riley and Vicki for dinner in the restaurant. An opportunity for a nice evening catching up with international friends.

**ASPAC CONVENTION DAY 1**

Breakfast on Thursday morning preceded the ASPAC Executive Board Meeting. Others in the Aussie contingent including Yvonne, Ros, John and Jan, Betty and Louis, Pauline plus Sydney members Nazeen, Denise, Cathy and Steve Hughes, departed for a cooking class at an organisation called Seven Women – they seek to empower marginalised women in Nepal through education and employment. Seems it was a fun and rewarding experience with special thanks to Nazeen for organising that event (pix on back page).

Ash, Ken, Tony and myself attended the ASPAC Executive Board Meeting. A typical Executive Board Meeting in anything but a typical ASPAC Convention. The sad news was that many previously registered attendees for the Convention had decided not to arrive due to the issues regarding the emerging Chinese Disease. Taiwan would have had a very large group of attendees (in excess of 100) but finally ended up with just two attendees.

International President Daniel Vigneron gave us a report on his activities to date and thanked everyone for making the effort to be in Kathmandu. This was followed by confirmation of key Convention appointments, where I scored the role of Parliamentarian and unofficial overseer of the Time Keeper. We had a concise report delivered by Jeff Oatess from KL on world membership, but special attention was paid to ASPAC, where Nepal is now recognised as a full District – our overall numbers continue to grow.

Then a brief report from the KL European Federation President Christian Decorte, who said they’d like to enjoy the growth in Europe like ASPAC has enjoyed over the past few years, and remaining hopeful that the next emerging full District will be in Romania.

After morning tea this was an opportunity for each District and Nation to make a brief report. Ash supplied an excellent five minute report on Australian activities and membership initiatives. There was a smorgasbord luncheon for the Board Members and guests comprising Asian (and Nepalese) cuisine, where we could talk informally with several of the International Trustees that shared our tables.

After lunch there were a number of housekeeping items and we heard from the KCF Representatives Chia Sing Hwang from Malaysia plus our Chief Operating Officer Ann Updegraff Spleth from Indianapolis, USA.

The 2021 ASPAC Convention was confirmed for Sendai Japan, prefaced by an excellent presentation from Tadao Oda. We also confirmed the 2022 ASPAC Convention is set down for Manila with the International Convention. There was a brief report from Art Riley on the 2021 International Convention, due to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Whilst the Executive Meeting was going on, several members put together our District display – special thanks to John Hyde and helpers. There was a lot of Australiana and a small display with special focus on the recent wildfires, as well as several photographs of projects from around Australia.

That evening Executive Members and their partners as well as many of the other visiting Kiwanians met for the official dinner which included pre-dinner drinks and finger foods that went on for quite a while, before I hinted that dinner be served before too much more alcohol was consumed!!! After dinner it was a gradual return for the Aussies to their hotel rooms.

**ASPAC CONVENTION DAY 2**

A lazy morning to have a bit of a look around as the official opening was not until after lunch. We were treated to a cultural performance of music and dance, plus an opportunity to look over the other District displays and the other booths with products for sale.

Many of us Aussies were dressed in Tony’s Tops, which asked for support to re-elect Tony as a Trustee to fill a two year vacancy. A few of us had a quiet lunch in the hotel’s café, entertained as Yvonne inadvertently ordered drinks in error, thinking it was something else. Very spicy liquid “shots” that I had to consume on her behalf.

The opening business session was basically housekeeping, although the District reports were presented in greater detail. Again Ash did us proud with a terrific and detailed report on the state of Australia District.

I had to watch over the time keeper to ensure everyone got their allotted 10 minutes. He was pretty keen to put the clock on all the speeches until I advised it was only for District reports and not the International President’s address!

At the closure of this session we had a few hours to look around before our pre-dinner gathering in Australia House (Gov Ash and Ros’s room), before heading downstairs to the Grand Opening Ceremony that involved a sit down dinner. There were addresses by various dignitaries and a keynote
Wind instruments like a narsiha (a long, traditional drum). Often accompanied by cultural band comprising drummers, here playing Madal or Maadal Drums and other traditional drums. Often accompanied by wind instruments like a narsiha (a long, S-shaped trumpet).

Speaker, who unfortunately had to compete with quite a bit of background noise from conversations at the back of the room. Thankfully we were close to the stage and thoroughly enjoyed the motivational speaker being a young blind lady who also teaches other blind individuals to use dance. She introduced a beautiful and colourful display put on by her blind dancers.

**ASPAC Convention Day 3**

An early breakfast as it was a prompt start for the main business session. It is the main segment where the elections occur for the ASPAC and International Trustee roles.

Nominated by Past Governor of NZ/SP District Chris Cole, Tony put himself forward for the two year vacancy of International Trustee. Tony gave a very good nomination speech, but unfortunately he was not successful in the election with the position being filled by Wilfredo “Willy” Aguilar from the Philippines, who had the numbers. It may have been a different story if the full complement of Taiwanese members had been able to attend.

We had a longer presentation on the ASPAC Convention to be held next year in Sendai and some highlights of next year’s International Convention to be held in Salt Lake City. We were also advised that this year’s Convention in Indianapolis is in serious doubt due to COVID-19. A decision was to be made at the April International Board of Trustees Meeting. After lunch several of us attended the joint meeting of the ASPAC Executive Boards of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Afterwards we headed back to “Australia House” with the entire Aussie contingent to practice our cultural performance of We Are One. There were several run-throughs, with Yvonne singing solo two additional verses that we included. Personally I thought we all sounded rather good.

The Farewell Evening was a sit down formal style dinner, with the Aussies seated at several tables. There were many speeches and lots of gifts and awards presented. Each of the retiring Executive Board Members received a special gift and memento of Nepal.

Once again Australia led the way with the cultural performances which mainly involved singing and dance. Our rendition was well received, especially Yvonne’s solo. The Nepalese put on a very colourful and traditional theatrical display. Although we received a lot of applause, we were unsuccessful to win an award. The NZ/South Pacific team was successful, having presented three very colourful and animated items, along with both the Philippine Districts.

The evening progressed, culminating with farewells for old friends and new alike.

I was up early on Sunday morning for a video chat with a new Club in Ohio, USA as part of my role with the Centennial eKiwanis Club. Others were also up early to join a tour group leaving at 7am that included Tony and Pauline, Angela and several of the overseas visitors plus many of the Malaysian Group.

Yvonne, Ash, Ros and I had a leisurely breakfast as our flight to Singapore was later Sunday evening and we had arranged a late checkout. We also booked a driver to take us to a few local tourist spots, one being a temple of the Three Golden Buddhas, which unfortunately is not the one we were expecting. Ash surprised the attendant of the Men’s Loo with an Aussie one dollar coin when requested for a “management fee”.

On our return to the hotel we had a coffee and then packed our bags and checked out. By chance we were able to be observers of a traditional Hindu wedding in the hotel’s forecourt. Many of the women were in beautiful saris, mainly in shades of yellow, red and gold with lots of gold jewellery. We watched as the stunningly dressed bride and groom hopped into a horse drawn open-carrige with a military band playing music. The procession then moved from the hotel at walking pace.

We then decided to go to the hotel restaurant for some very tasty fish & chips – one of the first real western style meals we had whilst in Nepal. Then it was off to the airport.

Our flight to Singapore was uneventful apart from a couple of small children continually kicking our seatbacks. We arrived very early in the morning, 4.30 local time, but we collected our bags, scored some local currency and took a taxi to the hotel. We were allowed an early check-in so we could get a few hours sleep. A couple of days sight-seeing in humid Singapore, particularly to visit Gardens by the Bay, Botanic Gardens and National Orchid Gardens. I think we were finally glad to land back in Australia. Luckily our group snuck back home a few days before the mandatory 14 day period of self-isolation, although others in the Aussie and NZ contingent weren’t so fortunate. However no one attending Kathmandu for ASPAC caught the coronavirus.

Certainly a very enjoyable ASPAC Convention overall. Now waiting to see if the 2021 ASPAC in Sendai, Japan goes ahead, and praying that the COVID-19 pandemic is under control with a vaccine available soon.
BAROSSA

AROUND THE CLUBS

Well done to Barossa Club who recently saw President Robert Van der Wijngaart induct five new members! Welcome to Lyn & Geoff Hansen, Dale & Peer Atyeo and Rob Albrecht. This upgrades Barossa’s membership to an impressive 37 Kiwanians. Top efforts from Sharyn Burgemeister, Membership Director.

Shown left are Barossa members Lorna and Chris, part of a large turnout at a working bee to clean up the Gomersal Road-Rest Area. Barossa Kiwanians put in time, with help from Council resources, to bring the rest area nicely up to scratch.

Incidentally Lorna Schiller is offering for sale her 2020 leather bound diary. Reason: No events to record!

MOORABBIN

Back in 2012 Moorabbin Kiwanis commissioned a striking mural in the Paediatric Cardio Echo room at Monash Heart Clayton in Melbourne. Financial aid came from Bendigo Bank but it is Kiwanis who drove the project (painted by Melissa McCuen) and it’s great to see this mural still going strong. Melissa is a past patient of Monash Heart Clayton.

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Shown above is “part of” the front page from a recent Shepparton Sunrisers newsletter. The central graphic: “Kiwanis is all about helping children” clearly put our message out there, and underlines what our organisation is all about.

REEDBEDS

Long-standing member Geoff Samuels had a surprise in store when Reedbeds held its first face-to-face meeting early June. President Kerry is shown with ‘the man’ (an ex-Apexian) after presentation of a 25 Year Legion of Honour. By his reaction, we could tell Geoff was not expecting this, but it’s a well deserved honour.
AROUND THE CLUBS

ROSTREVOR CAMPBELLTOWN

Some general news from Rostrevor-Campbelltown Club: Club meetings in July are set to return to face-to-face dinner meetings. Club President Geoff Thomas has been helping keep members informed with a weekly Newsletter that incorporates a Quiz, with prizes! Great way to help our Kiwanians keep in touch during this shutdown. Further news sees Past Governor Geoff Holmes moving from his long-time residence at Stirling down to Glenside, near the city.

Another great initiative from President Geoff involves having the Board members on roster, contact members during these C-19 times, to check that they are going alright. Nice gesture.

PAC PINES KIWANIS

Well done to Club stalwarts Avril Pople and past Governor Janine Keulen whose birthdays were honoured at a dinner meeting earlier this year. Not mentioning age here, but they both now qualify for their OBE!

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY’S (well, not quite!)

Pacific Pines State High School (Gold Coast) Breakfast Club feeds students on a regular basis. The Club is supported by the Kiwanis Club of Pacific Pines, and Gold Coast Airport Community Benefit funds. Kiwanis President Nat McMahon is shown above helping in the kitchen.

Over 350 students enjoy a hearty healthy breakfast each week, thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Pacific Pines. The children are most grateful, and local businesses have got behind the venture by donating food or funds each week for breakfast ingredients. The Club bought kitchen gear including sandwich grill, toaster, chopping boards and cutlery to run the Breakfast Club with the fund grant money.

Pac Pines hopes to expand to more days and other local schools, if they can secure sufficient funding plus volunteers to provide the service.

AUSTRALIA DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE

A reminder re KAD’s facebook page. If your Club already has a facebook page and has ‘liked’ the Kiwanis Australia District, let me (Val Symons) know what you are up to. If you haven’t “liked” our page, please do so.

If your Club doesn’t have a facebook presence, no worries, just send in any articles, photos and items about your Club by emailing it to this address, and I can post it on your behalf. Please lodge with val.symons@outlook.com
Left: Glenelg Kiwanians responded to the call for a rather unusual project recently - a Food Drive-By, which they staffed near a major local shopping centre. With the use of their huge marquee, it was great publicity for Kiwanis as they went about supporting Puddle Jumpers SA. This is a non-profit non-government organisation responding to the needs of vulnerable children (fits Kiwanis mantra very well). People receive a pack with Kiwanis Club of Glenelg branding. Puddle Jumpers focuses on children who don’t live with their birth parents, and apart from this “drive-by” endeavour, the organisation was granted a $1000 donation by the Kiwanis Club of Glenelg.

NEWS FLASH! Glenelg Club President Val Symons looks like being able to relinquish office in September. Finally they have received a nomination for President from Alan Blakeborough who joined us six years ago. This great news was relayed to members via a “Breaking News” (left!).

Mooroopna Club is continuing its great work but with no recent activities, due to the Shutdown, they have been showing Archival snaps in their regular newsletters. This one of the Club hierarchy from 2012 underlines the impressive amount of experience the Club can draw on. Apart from two members shown here, the Board remains virtually the same for 2020.

GENTLE REMINDER
If your Club doesn’t score a mention in this section of AK, it’s likely due to nothing being submitted. Please feel free to write in with any of your Club’s recent activities.

ATHELSTONE

Athelstone Club worked the barbecue stall shown here, mid-February at Adelaide’s All American Car Day.

Above: Sue, Julie, Jan and Kavitha helped represent Kiwanis on March 5 at a Cocktail event celebrating International Women & the Arts Day.

Good news out of Athelstone Club is that President Geoff Edwards has been discharged after several months in hospital, and is on the mend!

GLENELG KIWANIS

Left: Glenelg Kiwanians responded to the call for a rather unusual project recently - a Food Drive-By, which they staffed near a major local shopping centre. With the use of their huge marquee, it was great publicity for Kiwanis as they went about supporting Puddle Jumpers SA. This is a non-profit non-government organisation responding to the needs of vulnerable children (fits Kiwanis mantra very well). People receive a pack with Kiwanis Club of Glenelg branding. Puddle Jumpers focuses on children who don’t live with their birth parents, and apart from this “drive-by” endeavour, the organisation was granted a $1000 donation by the Kiwanis Club of Glenelg.

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VALE TO 9 KIWANIANS

J OAN KITTO (Shepparton Club)

It was with sadness that Shepparton Kiwanis Club received the news that Joan Kitto, wife of the late Ted Kitto, had passed away on May 21, aged 88. Joan was a great “back stop” and support to Ted through his extensive work for Kiwanis. Joan loved her family and until recently enjoyed a game of golf. She was also very keen on her music and was a member of St Augustine’s choir.

Joan was a much loved mother and mother-in-law of Ian (and Barbara), Frank (and Susan), Gary (and Meredith) and Lyn (and Peter). She was an adored grandmother of 11 and great grandmother of 11. Joan didn’t have to wait too long to be reunited, as Ted Kitto had passed away just nine months earlier (August 2019). RIP Joan.

TONY WRIDE OAM (Berwick Club) (by Norm McLennan)

Late March, we at Berwick Kiwanis lost our long-time treasurer Tony Wride who passed away following a long illness at the venerable age of 92 – and I lost a very good friend.

Elwyn Anthony (Tony) Wride came to Kiwanis as a member 20 years ago following a very long association with the Club through several of his other community and philanthropic associations and following the encouragement of foundation member the late Ian Gibb. Until just prior to his death he was the Secretary of the local St Vincent de Paul Society for a staggering 55 years which, in no small part, was a contributing factor in his being awarded an OAM well before he joined Kiwanis.

Born near Cardiff, Wales in October 1927 Tony moved with his family at age 10, at the height of the Depression, to Manchester. Following the death of his father, he had to leave school aged 14. Tony was a highly intelligent and well-read gentleman. He told me that his secondary schooling was rounded out by the Communist Party in Britain – they had sent him to London in the immediate post War period to complete his education and had then offered him the chance to move to Moscow – precisely why he didn’t say, but he politely declined. In his youth Tony was also a boxer, having several bouts as featherweight and suffering a broken nose which continued to trouble him for the rest of his life. Like many others of his generation he completed his tertiary studies at night school, eventually qualifying as a Mechanical Engineer.

Into his 90s Tony was still engaged in educational pursuits. Since his wife Margaret passed some 10 years ago, he had learnt Italian and could be regularly found reading the Italian newspaper, Il Globo. In recent years he had also made a study of Geoffrey Chaucer and the Canterbury Tales using the Old English Text, and at the time of his passing was studying Wuthering Heights through U3A.

Tony and Margaret arrived in Australia around 1964 where he worked for several companies including Vickers Rewolt and BHP, in some quite senior positions prior to his retirement. Tony was also a Justice of the Peace and served in this capacity as a volunteer for both the State and Federal Police until just before his 90th birthday.

Shortly after Tony joined Kiwanis, and with Ian Gibb’s passing he accepted the role of Club Treasurer. Tony was superb in this position. With a mind ‘like a steel trap’ he could always be relied upon to have the balance of the Club books to hand and the profits of the various fundraisers in which we participated accurately organised and banked. He was also a valuable contributor to all Berwick Kiwanis Club’s service activities and a great source of ideas and inspiration. Tony’s service to the community was again recognised earlier this year when he was presented with a Commonwealth Bank Treasurers Award, by Lt Governor Ian Randall.

Over the last couple of years in particular, as his physical health declined following a fall, he became reliant on several friends to assist him in some of his day to day activities. It became my pleasure to accompany him with trips to various medical appointments and it also allowed us to become closer, and to learn a great deal about this fascinating man. Tony was admitted to Casey Hospital on March 17, where he showed signs of improvement; in fact he was out of bed, talking lucidly and preparing to be discharged soon. Sadly he took a turn for the worse, and was put on a ventilator before passing away peacefully at 9am on Tuesday, March 31. He will definitely be missed by the Club – on a personal level I will miss his guidance and friendship.

He was a member of St Michael’s Catholic Parish, Berwick. Sadly, other than a younger sister (Peggy) living in southern Queensland, he leaves no other family.
RAY O’KEEFE (Warrnambool Club)

Raymond Michael O’Keefe, 74, a much loved and valued member of Kiwanis for over a decade, passed away Monday April 6, after a short battle with illness. Ray’s wife Evelyn has been Secretary of the Warrnambool Club for many years and our deepest sympathies are extended to Evelyn and the family.

During Ray’s time as a Kiwanian he had taken on various committee leaderships, including Club President. He was one of those people that always turned up to most projects and made sure our barbecue fundraising team had all the supplies they needed, often putting in those extra shifts.

In his early years Ray worked the family farm in Winslow (about 20 km north of Warrnambool). He was a keen footballer and played for Grasmere and also taught in the Agricultural program at Cobden Technical School for several years. He continued on to Warrnambool TAFE to teach in the Farm Apprenticeship Program. Ray was supported by Evelyn during his Kiwanis journey, and they raised a lovely family of 5 children – he was grandad to seven grandchildren.

Ray was a family oriented man who took the tribe on camps from a young age. He and Evelyn continued their love of camping and were especially keen on the three to four days under canvas at Port Fairy during the annual Port Fairy Folk Festival.

He was father to Felicity (& Adam), Tim (& Kara), Luke, Nigel (& Linda) and Jessica. His parents were Mary and John O’Keefe and he was brother (and brother-in-law) to Mary, Ann, Chris & Beryl, Pat & Dianne, Robert, David, Carmel and Eric.

Ray O’Keefe will be always remembered as the well-spoken and much respected Kiwanian who enjoyed the social side of gatherings (and a good red wine), but never shirked at really ‘getting stuck in’. Due to the C19 restrictions a private funeral was held, and a public memorial mass will be held later at a date to be advised.

GEOFF DYSON (Warrnambool Club)

Geoffrey Donavan Dyson, born November 9, 1938 (and passing away on March 27, aged a youthful 81), was one of the “original” Kiwanis crew. He joined the Kiwanis Club of Warrnambool 42 years ago and was in the second wave of new members just after the Club’s Charter.

Geoff was a great family man who raised four children with his wife Glenys – then going on to have 12 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

The Dyson family lived on their farm on Dyson’s Road, Panmure, about 20k’s out of Warrnambool. Geoff raised beef cattle and bred and exhibited his favourite cattle, Maine-Anjou, one of the top French breeds. Over many years Geoff took a few head of cattle to the local field days where the public and excited schoolchildren could learn about raising this type of livestock. As well as farming, Geoff drove milk tankers for Warrnambool Cheese & Butter Factory, and then was promoted to Milk Transport Manager/Coordinator.

Geoff and his family survived the horrific February 1983 Ash Wednesday wildfires which decimated their property, but thankfully their house was saved. Warrnambool Kiwanians, true to form, helped Geoff and Glenys rebuild. Clearing dead stock, burnt fencing and buildings and re-fencing was high on the agenda for some time. Geoff also had a very wooded farm and was known to cut and deliver firewood to those in need.

When work commitments slowed, Geoff and Glenys followed their passion for country music and would regularly hitch up the caravan, travelling to many Country Music Festivals like Swan Hill and Tamworth. Geoff’s community commitment was always strong, leading to him being awarded a Life Membership of the local Fire Brigade. Later in life he and Glenys moved from Panmure to live in Warrnambool.

Within Kiwanis, he not only took on Presidency of the Kiwanis Club twice, and Treasurer but was keen to join the various working committees within the Club. Geoff was a true gentleman in every respect, always willing to share his experience and knowledge with the young Kiwanis “pups”. He was eligible for a 40 Year Legion of Honour Award, and will forever be remembered for his quick, dry wit and the stories ‘n’ yarns he could pull out at just the right time.

We will all miss this about Geoff. A private funeral was held on March 30th.

Thanks to Lt Governor Coral for helping provide the information on these Warrnambool stalwarts.
DEAN MADDAFORD (Glenelg Club)

On May 7th, 2020 Glenelg Club lost its Charter President. Douglas Dean Maddaford was at the helm when Glenelg Kiwanis chartered in 1972, having been sponsored by Adelaide Club. Dean’s wife Brenda pre-deceased him a few years ago. In 2012 he attended the Club’s 40th Anniversary celebrations. An iconic photo was taken at that function with then current President Tony Heath, cutting the 40th Birthday Cake that had been made by Lois Brice.

Dean (9/3/25 - 7/5/20) was father of Wayne (& Elizabeth), Anne (& Lester) and Robyn (& Athol). He had eight grandchildren and was great grandpa to 11. He had four siblings of which one (Peggy) remains. Dean Maddaford was a Life Member of Glenelg Bowls, was a member of Brighton RSL and worked for Commercial Bank of Australia plus Westpac, in an extensive banking career.

GVIN STEPHENS (Mitcham Club)

Gavin George Stephens passed away peacefully at Mary Potter Hospice on April 24th aged 81 after a battle with cancer. Although Gavin departed from Kiwanis about 10 years ago, he left a legacy with Mitcham Kiwanis, having been Club Treasurer. He was married to Jo for 66 years and was Dad to Andrea, Rebecca and Brigit, father-in-law to Graeme and Brett, and had six grandchildren.

PAUL SFETCOPOULOS (Cobram-Barooga Club)

Paul was a Charter member of the Cobram-Barooga Kiwanis Club, being involved for a number of years until his growing business impacted on available time. He left Kiwanis to concentrate on his business, but would assist when time permitted. His involvement with Kiwanis, Apex and other Service Clubs was extensive in his capacity as an electrician, giving help and equipment, manpower and expertise, but not expecting payment. Without Paul’s help and that of other volunteers, Cobram’s Peaches & Cream Festival would never have been the success it was for over 40 years.

When the business became increasingly self sufficient, and Paul had more free time, he returned to Kiwanis, embracing it with a new vigour. His contributions to Kiwanis, whilst often in the background were vastly understated. His wise and innovative ideas, along with his considerable time were absorbed in everyday Club activities, as it is with all members. Paul also pitched in socially, and his “Greek” humour was unique. ‘Christos’ the chef at barbecues was an amusing interlude for us and the general public.

Cobram-Barooga Club’s most memorable event was the Australia District Convention in 2004, when Kevin Wood was Governor, and Paul’s contribution to this was outstanding. Whilst not keen to be an Executive Member, he avidly supported the organisation in general. He was a frequent attendee at Divisional Meetings and the first to volunteer for working bees.

In later years Paul, a diabetic, suffered health issues including a heart attack a few years ago, and he needed extensive bypass surgery. Even a subsequent stroke couldn’t keep him down and he remained incredibly stoic. Paul fought his ailments but another heart attack on June 9th proved too much for this “man of steel”. The big-hearted man sadly never really got to live his dreams of retirement, but he did enjoy the dream of planning, along with his involvement in Kiwanis and other facets of the community.

Our condolences to his immediate and extended family including son Damian. Many locals were helped by this man and he leaves a big gap. RIP Paul, the world has lost a gentleman, although the return of a number of alphabet letters for general use is much appreciated!

DOUG HASKINGS (Modbury Club)

Doug Haskings who passed away in March, has not been forgotten. A Vale being prepared and submitted on his behalf was not quite completed in time for this issue of AK, but has been promised for our next edition.

Mick Briody, Club Secretary
KIWANIS SUPPORTS CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

It has been shown that:
• 20% of the world’s population are children aged under 16
• Around 120,000 children are diagnosed annually with cancer in Australia

Kiwanis is committed to improving the health, wellbeing and living standards of the world’s children. Individual, public and corporate donations are tax deductible. 100% of your donation to the Kiwanis Target $2M for Childhood Cancer Research will be directed to this program.

This allows us to provide grants to support better ways for preventing and treating cancer in the future.

Please donate with your choice of preferred payment: Cheques payable to KADCF – Target $2M.
Mail to the Secretary, 4 Atherton Close, Aspendale Gardens, VIC 3195, or alternatively Online through secure facilities by selecting the following link on the Kiwanis District webpage: www.givenow.com.au/kadcftarget2m

MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

It’s a Way to Say: “We’ll Always Remember...”

Ideal for a Kiwanis Club or family, friends, Club members or business associates to honour a deceased Kiwanian. Club donors receive a “Memorial Fellowship” certificate in honour of the Kiwanian who’s passed on, with an option of presenting this to the family. Other donations of Memorial Gifts in memory of the deceased are most welcome.

Donations: Club donors for Memorial Fellowship - Minimum of A$250.
Other donors of Memorial Gifts - Discretionary amount.
Further details are included in the brochure available online from: kiwanis.org.au/foundation or by email to: kadcf@kiwanis.org.au

GET ONLINE WITH AUSTRALIA ONLINE

AUSTRALIA ONLINE is probably the District’s easiest Kiwanis Club for ‘attending’ meetings. Kiwanians who maybe can’t go outside, possibly away travelling around the countryside, or if their regular Kiwanis Club has gone into recess, then this could be for you.

For those Kiwanians who are “Grey Nomading”, this club can enable them to maintain contact while travelling. We welcome any existing Kiwanians who are interested in developing new friendships with fellow members from other parts of the country, and potentially worldwide.

Kiwanis Online meets monthly, on the first Thursday at 7.00pm Australian Eastern Time using the following information:

Please join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone by clicking the following link https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/173825077 You don’t really need a computer, as you can dial in using your phone.
Australia: +61 2 9087 3604 Access Code: 173-825-077

Inquire direct to Club President Norm McLennan at namclennan@bigpond.com (phone 0408 737 580). Or simply log in using the above on the next meeting date. Look forward to “seeing you” at a meeting soon!

VALE DOT ERSKINE (Moorabbin Kiwanis)

Dorothy (Dot) Erskine, beloved wife of Charter Moorabbin member Ron Erskine passed away after a lengthy illness on Saturday, June 13, aged 89.

Whilst not a member of Kiwanis, Dorothy (who hailed from Sydney) epitomises the saying that behind every great Kiwanian there is a great woman. After she and Ron Erskine were married in 1952 (they later had 2 sons and a daughter), she actively supported him in all of his many Kiwanis activities and roles, after the family moved to Melbourne in 1969.

There is no question that had Kiwanis accepted women* before she and Ron retired to the Mornington Peninsula, that Dorothy would have become a valuable member of Kiwanis. The Erskines maintained contact with a number of Moorabbin members until Ron’s passing in April last year, and Dorothy continued to be an avid reader of the Club’s monthly Bulletin. Rest in peace Dorothy, reunited with Ron.

* Women were welcomed into Kiwanis from 1988 onwards.
The Last Laugh

When is it that ... Red means Go, and Green means Stop ... Eating a water melon!!

If more than one mouse is mice, then more than one spouse is spice!!!

If poison passes its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer deadly?
Which letter is silent in the word “Scent,” the S or the C?
The word “swims” upside down is still “swims”.

100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Now everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

Ever wondered why the word funeral starts with FUN?

Why isn’t a Fireman called a Waterman?
If a Vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a Humanitarian eat?

Why do we put cups in the Dishwasher and the dishes in the Cupboard?
Why is it called “Rush hour” when traffic moves at its slowest then?

How come Noses run, yet Feet smell?
Did you know that if you replace “W” with “T” in “What, Where and When”, you get the answer to each of those words.

Oxymoron 1: “Good grief!”
Oxymoron 2: Same difference

OVERHEARD:
“She got her good looks from her father. Well, he’s a plastic surgeon!”

Told my wife I want to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday...

My wife complains I never buy her flowers. But gee whiz, never knew she sold flowers.

Shop assistant fought off armed robber with his labelling gun. Police are now looking for an offender with a price on his head.

The chap who invented autocorrect on texting has just died.
Restaurant in peace . . .

My wife said, “Here’s $20, get the dog a jacket. If there’s any money left over, get yourself a beer!”

That’s so bad, when people act all intellectual and stuff, and bang on about Mozart. When they’ve never even seen one of his paintings.

MODERN AILMENT: BLUETOOTH ACHE!

How about the bank teller arrested for trying to take bags of money to his place. Claims he was going to work from home!

Restaurant in peace . . .
ONE-OFF C-19 “SPECIAL” - A few Wu Flu flavoured funnies!

Went to my first social distancing Christening last Sunday ...

Finally, a face mask that keeps people 6 feet away!

Above: This month’s Social distancing winner!

The Flat Earth Society are worried that social distancing will tend to push people over the edge . . .

The buttons of my jeans have started social distancing from each other.

Below: Duct Tape is NOT the solution to EVERY problem!

Home Schooling Update: My child just said “I hope I don’t have the same teacher next year . . .”

Left: My new social distancing outfit just arrived from America.

Whenever you start feeling a bit down, just remember – somewhere out there Bill Clinton is quarantining with Hillary.

Am holding a Quarantine Party next weekend. None of you are invited.

It’s great seeing how Australians are adhering to the C-19 social distance rules. On going shopping with my favourite bag, people not only give me 1.5 m but actually cross the road and run away!

Above: The Flat Earth Society are worried that social distancing will tend to push people over the edge . . .

Enjoy your trip!

Above: For that special lady in your life!

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New 2020 Airport Codes

Popular Spring Break Destinations

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AROUND THE CLUBS

MITCHAM KIWANIS

Like most other Clubs lately, Mitcham has been limited to keeping in touch via Zoom meetings. They have just started meeting again in person, and one of their first agenda items was a donation of A$250.00 to Ronald McDonald House. RMH also benefitted from being presented with a new array of wooden toys from the Viet Vets. The VV featured in an AK article last December, back when the world was “normal”.

SYDNEY KIWANIANS were able to consolidate their ties (post-ASPAC) by visiting the Rainbow Children’s Home which they have supported for the past five years. RCH is an orphanage at Pokhara, 200km from Kathmandu and currently houses 39 children from 2 to 16 years old, in two separate buildings. Rainbow also supports 40 other children in local villages, with education sponsorships.

The Sydney Kiwanians brought over several knitted scarves and beanies, and these colourful items were presented to the Orphanage, which is run by an enterprising lady Goma Dhakal.

Our Kiwanians were able to tour the buildings, interact with the children and receive an official welcome on what was (by chance) a Hindi festival day.

The lower photo taken in Kathmandu, shows Kathy, Betty and Ros who were part of a group of a dozen taking part in a cooking “class” called Seven Women (www.sevenwomen.org). This was started by a Melbourne lady Steph Woolard, who oversees a complex catering for crafts, with a library, workshop and education rooms. And of course, the kitchen!

Corona beer has changed their name to avoid association with the Coronavirus outbreak...