Well done to Rostrevor-Campbelltown - the District’s largest Club, getting larger!

Inside: Profile on President Jane p.4
Kiwanis Token Gesture in Geelong
Aussies at ASPAC • Jan’s Journey
KADCF Fundraiser • Around The Clubs
Inspiration

Everything we do in Kiwanis is inspirational but using the headings of the I-Plan is as good a way as any to address the first 50 days of my term as Governor. To me those early days were not as busy as they should have been because of me finalising 50 years in the workforce, along with Pauline and me moving house after 23 years. Those “self-inflicted” activities restricted my movements in September resulting me in having to decline several invitations to visit Clubs outside of Melbourne.

The first of our District goals is to introduce new members into Kiwanis through strengthening existing clubs and building new clubs. To this extent I have attended meetings in Cranbourne and the City of Kingston with a view to forming new Clubs. Our get-together in Cranbourne was followed up with Formula Chair Norm McLennan and International Trustee candidate Peter Kimberley meeting key business leaders in Cranbourne. Both these meetings were very effective in spreading the word about Kiwanis and identifying a need for our brand of community service. Norm and I also met with the local MP for Mordialloc, extending from Cheltenham to Chelsea in Melbourne in the City of Kingston). There was agreement that there is ample scope and more importantly need for Kiwanis, and identified three key schools who would benefit from our Kiwanis activities.

Impact

Pauline and I attended a sausage sizzle run by Berwick and Waverley clubs at the Dandenong Show in miserably cold and blustery conditions. This gave us an opportunity to meet people and display our Kiwanis branding as well as raising money for our communities. I was scheduled to attend East Maitland’s Faraway Tree Children’s Picnic but this was rained off. I had been delegated to make the fairy bread which would have been a new skill to add to the Governor’s repertoire. Pauline and I visited the Yarrabah Special School in Aspendale Gardens to promote Kiwanis and see what we could do to help that school through Terrific Kids or SLP. This is a school of special needs students ranging in age from pre-school to late teens.

Image

Have met with our PR team of Cassandra Treagus and Lt Gov Div 6 Ian Randall and the formation of an ASPAC PR/Media team which will continue to meet to allow our media experts to compare notes and avoid re-inventing wheels.

The Australia District Facebook page (thanks Val!) is regularly reporting on the terrific work that our Clubs are doing. This is an immediate and direct way of promoting Kiwanis.

Investment

Changeover / Installation dinners for Bendigo, Warrnambool, Geelong, Melbourne and East Maitland and of course my home Club of Port Phillip were a revelation in how much we Kiwanians invest our time, talent and treasure in sharing our love of Kiwanis and improving the lives of children. I also attended meetings with International President Jane Erickson and ASPAC Chair Lee Kuan Yong and have chaired two Board meetings for our Australia District.

Bryan Williams has been putting in a lot of work to promote and progress our District Foundation and I had the pleasure of signing Rising Sun Awards that our Clubs are giving to deserving recipients. This investment in our charitable foundation is exceptionally worthwhile and we thank Bryan for his continuing efforts (see p.24).

Pauline and I extend compliments of the season – safe celebrating.

Yours in Kiwanis
Governor Tony

Left: Pauline and Tony Gunn attended Bendigo Club’s Handover night in September.
Welcome again to your Australian Kiwanian - the last issue for this calendar year. It’s probably not stretching things to reiterate how “crazy busy” this part of the year seems to become. Even more so in my household, where domestic “chores” are sidelined, so that time can be poured into producing AK.

What a buzz it’s going to be next year, with our District installing only the second lady Governor in Australia’s history. Following the trail-blazing that Janine Powell set in 2002, Jan Hyde is our Governor-Designate and will follow Governor Tony into the top job later next year. She has recently returned from USA, having attended the usual training session, and has filed an interesting report which you can read on p.20. Jan has also kindly written a short biography - it’s worth knowing a bit more about the lady set to lead us in 2017/18. That’s virtually the last you will hear (for now) of next year’s international team led by Jim Rochford. For now the focus is on our Governor Tony and International President Jane. Please give this pair your full support for 2016-17.

As we all know, communication of the printed variety can often be the panacea that soothes! In this modern world where Kindle version of e-books and online newspaper services threaten the very fabric of traditional news delivery, this also translates into how we broadcast our national AK. Over the past couple of decades, Australian Kiwanian (this very journal!) was produced as generally an 8 to 16 page magazine, where black and white copies were printed and distributed to the various Clubs for them to “dish out” to members; pre-email and before the uber-everywhere Internet overtook the mantle of King of Communication.

Reason for delving into this “conundrum of communications” is that to reiterate where we’re currently at for disseminating Australian Kiwanian to all our members and supporters, is that maybe there could be support for a slight change in the way AK is distributed. The web-based version, all in colour, is sent out via Ken and Tony, and hopefully most everyone with internet access can read this online. However, in your humble Editor’s opinion it’s always nice to have a hard-copy on hand for referral whenever you like. So maybe each Club could be posted a couple of printed copies for those without email, etc to peruse. There would be a cost factor (not substantial) involved, but it’s maybe worth considering. Do let us know your thoughts, and we can discuss this at BOT.

Having recently (finally) succumbed to “living the dream” and joining the ranks of the retired (from the workforce, not Kiwanis), Kerry and I are away overseas for a month in February. The laptop’s travelling too, so I’m hoping my absence from Australia won’t adversely affect having the next AK out late March, as per our regular schedule.

Meantime, if we can just remind you folk out there in Kiwanis-land, that we’d love to include in our News roundup, any information from areas such as WA, NT, Gold Coast, NSW. Kiwanians from those centres, if you can please find time over the next couple of months to send in a report on maybe what your Club or Division got up to over the festive season, Kiwanis One Day, or whatever. Would be happy to receive your news!

Meantime, keep on enjoying Kiwanis.

Yours, David

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**AUSTRALIA DISTRICT 2016-2017**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- **Governor:** TONY GUNN
- **Governor-Elect:** JAN HYDE
- **Imm. Past Governor:** BILL SKULLY
- **Secretary:** PETER ZANDER OAM
- **Treasurer:** KEN ARCHER

**Lieutenant Governors**

- Division 1: DEB COWNLEY
- Division 2: TONY SCHELLING
- Division 3: DAVID McNABB
- Division 6: IAN RANDALL
- Division 7: BRIAN PEDRETTI
- Division 8: BOB SITITERS
- Division 10: ROBERT GAMBEL

**AK Editor:** David McNabb (ak@kiwanis.org.au)
Kiwanis has much to thank a bloke named Dean Clark for. Around a quarter century ago, he strode into the Iowa, USA, office of young Jane Andrews Moritz and asked if she wanted to make a difference - “difference to the children of the world”.

Effectively Mr Clark was canvassing her as a candidate to join Kiwanis. And as her own father was already a long-term Kiwanian being a member of Storm Lake Kiwanis Iowa, Jane said “Yes”, she’d go along to lunch and see what this was really all about. “Ever since I was a little girl,” she admitted, “I dreamt of a world where every child could be happy, healthy, safe and loved.” Well Kiwanis sure fitted the bill there, no worries!

Joining the Fort Dodge, Iowa, Noon Kiwanis Club, she rose to be Distinguished President 1994-95. The turning point in life’s journey for Ms Moritz came when she attended the 79th Kiwanis International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana as a delegate for her Fort Dodge Club. While there, she was introduced to, and “met this guy from Nebraska” in an elevator. “This guy” was Gus Erickson who had been a member of Bellvue-Offut Kiwanis Club since 1975 and was Governor of Nebraska-Iowa District in 1995-96. They courted, and were married on December 7th, 1996, meaning this young lady now became Jane Erickson, embracing an instant family, and moving from a community of 25,000 people in Iowa, to live in a metropolitan area of nearly 900,000 people. Daunting to say the least.

But the newly-married Mrs Erickson wasn’t about to be over-awed by all this, and continued on her merry Kiwanis way, soon settling into her new life in Nebraska and working her way up the leadership ladder as a member of the Bellevue-Offutt Kiwanis Club. She became District Governor in 2001-02 and was KI Foundation President 2007-08.

To summarise her most impressive resume, which could easily fill half a magazine, Jane has been a K-Kids advisor for 18 years, was a Kiwanian of the Year 2007-08, serving on Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees for 2002-05 and was its President 2007-08. She continues to be a facilitator for Kiwanis Key Leader, a leadership development program for students. She is a recipient of Circle K International McKittrick Award, a Diamond-level George F. Hixson Fellow, Tablet of Honour recipient, Founders Circle, KI Foundation Heritage Society mentor, Walter Zeller Fellow and Mothers Day Fellow.

Outside of Kiwanis, Jane is owner of the Wellness and Training Works in Bellevue Nebraska. She belongs to St Mary’s Catholic Parish, the Bellevue Drug & Alcohol Prevention & Education Commission, and is aligned with Teammates, a school mentoring program, because helping keep kids on the “straight and narrow” is another passion of hers. Ever family-orientated, Jane and Gus have five children and seven grandchildren.

Kiwanis is indeed fortunate that such a dedicated lady has become our organisation’s International President, only the second woman to hold this high position, after Sue Petrisin in 2015/16. Gus Erickson holds the distinction of so far being Kiwanis only official “First Gentleman”!

Jane Erickson (the Think Pink lady), has certainly “Energized The Dream” and hopefully will long continue to do so. Kiwanis International salutes you.
At next year’s 102nd International Convention to be held in Paris mid-July, James Rochford will be confirmed as the incoming President of Kiwanis International, succeeding Jane Erickson.

During these Conventions a vote is taken for the position of Vice-President, meaning President-Elect for the following Kiwanis year. For 2017/18 there are four candidates standing, one of whom we had the pleasure of meeting at this year’s Australia District Convention.

Those candidates are:
ARTHUR S. RILEY from Westminster, Maryland USA
DEWEY SMITH from Albany, Georgia, USA
Dr BARBARA K. THOMPSON from St Louis, Missouri, USA
DANIEL VIGNERON from Howald, Luxembourg

AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE FOR 2017 ASPAC

Australia’s PETER KIMBERLEY from Warburton, Victoria, is a candidate for International Trustee for the ASPAC Region, to be voted on at the 42nd Kiwanis ASPAC Conference in March 9-12, being held in Jeju Island, South Korea.

This is for a three-year term, and we wish Peter all the best in his ASPAC endeavours.

Peter is shown here (lower right) at 2015 Indianapolis Convention, with TADAO ODA (currently Chair of Campaign for Growth), who has been a Kiwanis visitor to Australia in the past.

ASPAC current Executive for 2016/17 includes LEE KUAN YONG Chairman (shown above right)
NORM McLENNAN Secretary/Treasurer
PETER ZANDER OAM Vice-Chairman (soon to be Chairman)

District Secretary Peter Zander has sent out the first Call for Entries to next year’s ASPAC in Korea. Check the Kiwanis International website or contact Peter if you need a copy of this information sent to you.

Going by the success of our Australian “contingent” at the 2016 ASPAC event in Taiwan, it would seem Kiwanians in the Pacific Region can’t get enough of our “Aussie Culture”. So maybe if you’re considering attending, grab some information, and plan now. You won’t regret it!
Mitcham Kiwanians held a pre-Christmas get-together hosted by Club executives and stalwarts Renee and John Lundy (that’s Mein Host John second from right). During a perfect afternoon weather-wise, those assembled discussed both past and future Club strategies, over some good wine and ales.

**ROSTREVOR-CAMPBELLTOWN CLUB’S 2016 HANDOVER**

The District’s largest club held its 2016 Handover at Mt Osmond Golf Club with nearly 60 people present. Lt Governor Div 10 Robert Gamble officiated at the installation of Bruce Ind as incoming President. Local Mayor Simon Brewer and MP John Gardiner also attended. Newcomers to the Board are Janine Harper and Rod Cameron. The two photos show Board members at the Handover.

**SHEPPARTON SUNRISERS** inducted two new members in October - welcome to Judi Hanlon and Damien Stevens, shown below with their sponsors, and that’s newly installed President John Hyde in the centre.

**MOORABBIN**

MOORABBIN CLUB has been busy with Foundation Fellowships - here is member Peter Pahl (left) accepting his Foundation certificate early October from Tim Vine.
BAROSSA CLUB

Two AFL players were on hand to assist Barossa Kiwanians at the HeartKids annual Christmas party and fundraiser early December. Port Power’s Justin Westhoff, and HeartKids Ambassador Mitch McGovern (shown right) from the Crows, with Francis & his dad.

This event was held at Lindsay Winery in the Barossa, and Kiwanians helped dispense food, drink Christmas gifts, and there was also a footy kick session involving both AFL players.

HeartKids Concert a success

The performers in this enjoyable concert are shown left

The Twilight Concert late October had nearly 200 patrons attending, with 68 booked in for the post Concert dinner. A report on p.2 of the local Leader newspaper provided some welcome publicity for Kiwanis.

Kiwanis Clubs represented included Glenelg, Athelstone, Reedbeds, Roseworthy-Hewitt, Rostrevor-Campbelltown, Mitcham and Gawler. There were also some HeartKids parents present. Lorna’s dinner was a sellout and acclaimed by those lucky to take part.

Final profit, to benefit HeartKids, was early $5000. A magnificent result and tribute to the hard work put in by Barossa Kiwanians.
HAIR-RAISING FUNDRAISING!!

Last year Div 7’s Sev Duhring set a trend when he fundraised for Kiwanis by having his head shaved. Mooroopna Board member IAN SAUNDERS had both his head shaved and also his beard removed early October during a Trivia Night at the Royal Mail Hotel. Ian’s efforts helped swell the total towards Relay For Life to $3860, which is most admirable.

There was a sizeable gathering at Mitcham Kiwanis for their late November meeting. Main attraction was a presentation by guest speaker Maurie Turner who was “interviewed” by stalwart Lindsay Curtis in a Question & Answer session. Back in the 1980s Maurie was Head parts manager, alongside project chief John Harvey, when the HDT Brock Commodores were being built. There are some amazing anecdotal behind-the-scenes affecting how these now iconic motorcars were conceived and manufactured.

The genuine cars are either black, white or red in colour – nearly always with red velour interior. Those colours were chosen due to Holden Racing Team sponsor Marlboro’s livery. They are distinguished by the custom numbered steering wheel and matching unique “build number” in the glovebox. There are a few copycat non-genuine HDT cars around but it’s not hard to discern their bona-fides.

Five litre V8 power, rear spoiler, Momo steering wheel and imported mag wheels plus distinctive pin-stripping helped distinguish the 526 Commodores to come off the line in Melbourne. In fact they were produced in batches of six as that’s all that would fit in the workshop at one time. There was a real hurryup to produce and sell enough cars to qualify for homogation, which would allow them to contest the iconic Bathurst 1000 in October of 1984. The team’s efforts were all worthwhile, as Peter Brock won the race with a second HDT car driven by John Harvey finishing runnerup.

Maurie estimated there could be between 450 to 500 HDT Brock Commodores stil in existence, and they can command around $60-$80K pricetag. A fair investment considering they cost well under $10,000 originally. While the earlier Brock HDT Commodores were the VK model, Maurie doesn’t think the “K” in VK stood for Kiwanis!

**(We don’t normally cover Kiwanis Clubs’ individual speakers, but this one was somewhat different)**
Sue Handley (left) has been inducted as a new member, shown here with her sponsor Sev Duhring and then-Lt Governor Jan Hyde.

**MORE MOOROOPNA**

**ECHUCA-MOAMA HANDOVER**

Echuca-Moama’s new Board - L to R: President Tim Dawes, Secretary Deidre Nesbit, Treasurer Vic Carr and Lt Governor Brian Pedretti conducting his first installation.

Shepparton Sunrisers have held their 700th meeting - well done to this active Club, now into its 30th year. New Board L to R: (back): Editor Warren Goater, Ian Howard, Don Kilgour, Treasurer Ross Grenfell, Gavin Doherty, Secretary Livia Tiso, Paul Neal, President John Hyde, Immediate Past President David Jones; (front): Assistant Secretary Betty D’Amore, Robyn McFadyen, Jan Hyde, Felicity Butcher. Absent: Glen Burdekin, Jill Myers, Marg Watts, Eric McLeod.

Gavin Doherty is the only Kiwanian to serve more than one term as President of Sunrisers. This Club incredibly has had 28 different Presidents in its 29 years. Gavin cut the Birthday Cake on Handover Night as he has chaired the most Breakfast meetings and also has a “perfect attendance” record since joining in July 1989.

Above: Maggie Marshall has been inducted as an Honorary Member of Echuca-Moama Kiwanis Club. She joins her Kiwanian father, and when old enough Maggie intends joining the Club as a full member.

**BENDIGO HANDOVER**

Bendigo’s Board - L to R: President John Symons, Treasurer Rod Connelly, Secretary Bruce Hickson, Assistant Sec David Taylor, Assistant Treasurer Alan Darby and Lt Governor Brian Pedretti, who previously was Secretary for the past seven years. Bendigo Handover was attended by Pauline and Tony Gunn, our newly installed District Governor.
AROUND THE CLUBS

RECOGNITION FOR GRAHAM’S EFFORTS

In Geelong on Thursday November 17, past Governor Graham Mould attended a ceremony for what was a special presentation.

He was awarded the inaugural Donna Shaw Spirit of Kids Plus Award for Outstanding Voluntary Contributions to the Kids Plus Foundation. Graham has designed and made seats, tray tables and a range of special equipment for children suffering from cerebral palsy and other disabilities for more than one and a half decades. Shaun Cannon, CEO of the Kids Plus Foundation presented the award.

(Many thanks to past Governor Bill Craig of the Kiwanis Club of Melbourne for supplying the article and photos)

That’s Shaun shown here during the presentation to Graham (left). That impressive Award is displayed here (right).

GLENELG KiWANiS

Amongst the bigger Kiwanis Clubs going around, Glenelg has sure been active. Above: New President Val Symons at her induction by Mr Roy Seccafen, standing in for Lt Gov Div 8 Bob Sitters who was overseas. Below: The Club held a Great Garage Sale in October, and despite the weather gods’ worst efforts, $1500 was raised which is great going.

Above: MC David Meadows with immed. Past Governor Bill Skully announcing the raffle winners during the Great Gatsby Roaring 20s Fundraiser. Below: Groovers grooving to the sound of Groove Brothers & Soul Sister. Charleston dancers rock!
Above: Mal Lancaster and Graham Simpson were amongst those helping to provide Xmas lunch for nearly 70 folk whose lives have been affected by muscular dystrophy. Brisbane Kiwanis have been helping out the MD organisation for many years.

BRISBANE KIWANIANS - Doing what they love, and love what they're doing!

Gawler Kiwanis for many years have been holding a regular social event in a member's shed, where Kiwanians and partners have been gathering on a regular basis for nearly 30 years to share a barbecue or soup & casserole night.

The area is carpeted with tables and chairs provided for comfort. Along with food they share jokes, indulge in written competitions with prizes and lollies - sounds like a mini Quiz Night.

Each member brings along meat to cook, or a casserole, maybe soup, plus salads and dessert to share, along with their own drinks.

We believe these functions may be something unique amongst Australia District Kiwanis Clubs. Do write in to let us know if that's the case, or if your own Kiwanis Club holds a similar style of event. Love to hear from you, and hopefully we can publicise your activities in the Australian Kiwanian.

On occasions at these Gawler Kiwanis events, some members have stayed on until half past midnight after the food and refreshments have been finished, so the socialising must be good value!

Past Governor Geoff Holmes and Elizabeth were invited recently to attend one of these social gatherings to see for themselves how the Gawler Kiwanians do it in style. Geoff's home Club of Rostrevor-Campbelltown helped sponsor the chartering of Gawler Club around 30 years ago.

Bruce Townsend

Below: Pat McKinney and President Jennifer Sorrenson were amongst those Kiwanians joining with residents from the Centenary Suburbs to take part in the Xmas festivities and celebrate being part of a great community.
NINE YEARS OF TREATING CHILDREN IN NEED - WELL DONE TO REYNELLA KIWANIS

Early August 2016 the Kiwanis Club of Reynella hosted its ninth Kiwanis Kids Fun Day (KKFD) for underprivileged children from Adelaide’s southern suburbs. Held on a lovely Sunday afternoon, the event which is keenly anticipated by the Club, was first held in 2007 and due to its continuing success and appreciation by the children attending, has become Reynella Club’s major project, attracting around 300 eager participants and carers each year.

Since its inception, the event’s format has remained largely unchanged with only minor improvements being necessary.

The KKFD provides the kids with five activities over a period of more than four hours and the venue has always been the Noarlunga Cinema Centre. As has become the tradition, the special kids are treated to face painting by a team of people hired by the Kiwanis Club. The kids and their carers are then provided with a barbecue lunch prepared and served by Kiwanians in an annex at the rear of the theatre complex. The event has created widespread interest within the Kiwanis community, with several Lt Governors and even an Australia District Governor (John Bromilow) attending some of them to assist with the barbecue and other activities and to enjoy the day. In addition, the Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga has attended several times, as well as a number of MPs from the southern area of Adelaide who have lent a hand, and in two cases have reported to State Parliament on the work done by Reynella Club in staging this rather significant event, and their appreciation of the volunteer work done in their electorates.

Following the face painting and the barbecue lunch, the special kids enjoy a movie selected as suitable for viewing by the range of age groups attending. This year they were treated to a viewing of the popular movie “Ice Age - Collision Course”.

After the screening, Club members distribute “goodie bags” to the kids in the theatre foyer. The bags contain packets of biscuits, fruit bars, lollies, etc, together with fresh fruit and soft drinks.

The final activity is provided by a very skilled balloon man who has never failed to attract a large gathering, fascinated by the shapes that are able to be created on order including birds, animals, flowers and swords.

Reynella Kiwanis Club members always feel great satisfaction at having hosted a great day for the kids, sharing in their excitement and joy and received expressions of thanks from the kids and their carers. Some children taking part have even proclaimed the event to be “the best day in their lives”, a ringing endorsement of this project, but also a poignant reminder of the level of disadvantage endured by some kids in our community.
REYNELLA CLUB HOSTS NINTH KIWANIS KIDS FUN DAY IN 2016

“We’ve hit a snag here!”

LOOK, A KOOKA! KIWANIS KOOKA WAS THERE
Annual Bowls Night

The inter-Division Ken Farmer Shield for this year went to Division 10, while the Lionel Whalan Trophy went to ..., read on below!

THE WINNERS ARE . . .

Below, the photos show (in order) the Barossa team which has now won four times in recent years - Dennis Noack, Des Schiller, Sandy Blythman & Jason Balk (Jason eyeing off the wine prizes!). Middle: Reedbeds 2 Team which finished runnerup - David McNabb, Howard Humby, David Matthews and Kerry Gannon. Lower photo: Reedbeds 1 Team which scored the “NABA booby prize” - Geoff Samuels, Brian Hewitt, Ron Cocks and Joe Hewitt.
As always, Glenelg Club was there in full support. Bowls Night was held early November.

In 2015 Prospect Club won the booby prize. They were far from disgraced this year and had a full turnout, even without the Kuteks who were still overseas.

Above: Brighton Club was amongst those lending full support to Bowls Night.
Below: Rostrevor-Campbelltown and Athelstone members enjoying a break.

**2016 INTER DIVISIONAL BOWLS**

Well done to Brighton Kiwanis (thanks Chrissie Hibbert, the Hesslings et al) who again organised a super night of fellowship and bowls competition at Somerton Bowls Club, where teams from Divisions 3, 8 and 10 joined in the fun. There were varying levels of skill displayed out on the rinks, but everyone seemed to be having a ball. At the close of play, the Clubrooms saw much post-bowl activity, including partaking of a nice hot pastry supper. Thank you to the Clubs who supported this annual event, and next year we look forward to reps from more Clubs taking part.
Our last AK, covering the August District Convention in Adelaide, made mention of a “specially imported guest” from Philippines - Ms Efi Tabuena Taylor, who is a Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor from Manila with an extensive career background in our service organisation.

It’s worth expanding on this rather amazing lady’s presentation. Incidentally immediate Past President of Barossa Club (Robert Nitschke) had a “fair input” into the efforts that made Efi available to speak at our Convention.

Anyway, her home Club in Manila has a partnership with McDonald’s (yes, that iconic worldwide business) and an affiliation with Ronald McDonald Foundation, that worthwhile worldwide organisation which also has a real presence in Australia. In Manila they were able to get hold of prosthetic arms for distribution - $300,000 worth.

Efi showed an item with eliminate branding, including mention of Super Kiwanis Kids! The following slide presentation was definitely sobering - portraying the aftermath of the devastation from the northern Phillipines typhoon that hit earlier this year.

We heard that the local Kiwanis have distributed around 250 Family Protection Kits - similar to our Aussie Caring Packs, and the Philippinos have been involved in the local Legacy Fun Run, along with donating wheelchairs where they are needed, plus distributing footwear to the poor.

In Manila the Kiwanis have Sister clubs based in Taiwan and Korea. Efi told us how Kiwanis in her home city sometimes clashes with Rotary in the fundraising and service stakes, but Kiwanis can usually “nose ahead due to identifying with children.

In conclusion, it was a great pleasure to have had Efi on board for our District Convention - on her visit to Australia, like many first-timers, she couldn’t believe in general (and especially around the Barossa) the spaciousness of properties over here are, with most people not living on top of each other. As in countries like Korea, people in the Philippinos tend to live more in condominium arrangements, with no backyards or as much privacy as here.

Efi is shown here during Convention when she presented Roseworthy-Hewett Kiwanis President Ms Rose Muirhead with some Twin tops, plus unveiled a special banner confirming the Twinning arrangement between her Manila Club and R-Hewett.
WILLIAM DAVID POTTER - GLENELG KIWANIS CLUB

Australia District’s second largest Club, Glenelg, has lost a real stalwart with the passing on November 5 of Dave Potter, a long-standing Kiwanian. Dave was a member for 42 years, just missing out on Charter member status, because Glenelg Club is 44 years old. His birthday incidentally was February 21, making him a Pisces. Dave was also a former Mayor of Holdfast Bay Council and was well known in local government circles.

A past President of Glenelg Club, Dave was awarded a George F. Hixson Fellowship for his extensive services to our organisation; his many contributions included being active with the Kiwanis Bus as a driver for several years.

Dave Potter Honda on Brighton Road Glenelg became a well-known business that this ever active man ran for many years. His four-wheel interests also extended to competing in local rally events and an association with the classic car movement.

Recent health issues saw him switch from active to Honorary membership but Dave’s enthusiasm for Kiwanis never waned.

On the family front, Dave’s wife Phyll pre-deceased him. He had four children, was a grandfather to seven and great-grandfather to five. To them and his partner Carole McKay we extend sincere sympathies. Dave’s funeral was held on November 10, 2016.

Dave pictured (above) addressing a Glenelg Kiwanis meeting during his time as Club President. Above right: Dave the Driver pictured by an early Kiwanis Bus with which he served as a driver.

ROWAN HILL - ROSTREVO-CAMPBELTTOWN KIWANIS CLUB

Rowan was a Charter member of Australia’s largest Club - Rostrevor-Campbelltown, having joined in 1978. He passed away peacefully after an illness on November 17, aged in his mid-eighties. Rowan was born in May 1930 and spent the first 27 years living on Morialta Reserve with his family where his father and then elder brother were supervisors.

Rowan’s working life was spent in Insurance. He commenced his employment as a clerk with Commercial and Life Insurance. At retirement Rowan was responsible for an agency of Royal Insurance.

His wife Rosemary pre-deceased him, leaving Rowan and their three children devastated by their loss. A friendship with Pamela led to them marrying and sharing over 25 years of marriage, with a terrific blended family that included nine grandchildren.

An ever-active bloke, Rowan belonged to several groups. ‘The Spaghetti Boys’, who met in the Central Market for 42 years, was a long-running association. Similarly, ‘The Whiz Kids’ was another eclectic gathering of like-minded people, which evolved at a quiz night 20 years ago. Most of them were interested in a good red, and they continued to meet monthly at a local hostelry. Another of Rowan’s many interests was fishing.

Rowan continued as a dedicated active Kiwanis member who served on his Club’s Board for many years. His contribution to Kiwanis was recognised recently with a George F. Hixson Fellowship. To Pam and the family we extend our condolences. Rest in Peace Rowan, you’ve earned the rest.

(Many thanks to Rostrevor-Campbelltown President Bruce Ind for the information)
As always, all Kiwanis editors welcome any contributions in the Mailbag, whether “damning with faint praise” or constructive criticism. Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson had not quite officially taken up her new office when this lovely letter landed in our Inbox. This lady really is a gem and continues to keep an eye on what Kiwanis are up to around the globe. Jane’s letter, printed below, is compelling reading.

Dear David,

It’s early morning here in Indianapolis where I am getting ready for our first Board meeting of the new administrative year. I poured a cup of coffee and opened your Newsletter. My thoughts...

Love the Newsletter!!

Kudos to Governor Bill Skully. What a great job getting the strategic direction set and supporting the I-Plan throughout Australia. Well done, Bill! Thank you!

Great cover photos of your Convention; love the bright colors as those smiling faces really draw you in.

Congratulations and THANK YOU for your eliMiNaTe contributions. Our children are blessed to have you on their side.

Go, Facebook page!

Australia Foundation…so what do you do for kiddos there?

Love Prospect Mayor David’s bike ride. Now that’s healthy living.

Nice job saluting your Kiwanians who have passed. So are there any babies to celebrate? Younger members may be needed? :)

Thank you Shepparton Kiwanis for helping so many students through your Terrific Kids program.

McLennan Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna held its final meeting? Hoping I read that wrong...

District Convention photos and articles are great! Thank you for taking such good care of our KI Counsellor Dewey Smith and returning him to us in good shape. He’s a real asset to Kiwanis and I am very pleased you enjoyed his company as much as we do. And congrats to Tony Gunn and Jan Hyde, your new leaders. We look forward to great things continuing in Kiwanis Australia! And I look forward to more great energy, Tony!

Paris contest winners! Yay to Suzie and Terry James. Thank you for inviting new members and we’ll see you in Paris!

Congratulations to Mal Lancaster for his Rotary award for helping children. Now that’s something you don’t see very often in a Kiwanis publication : ) Well done, Mal.

Continued safe travels to Peter Zander as he takes on his new leadership role with ASPAC. Thank you for your continued guiding of our Kiwanis world, Peter.

Toronto Convention update and photos...great! But couldn’t you find a photo of me smiling?? Wow, I look rather unhappy in that photo. Haha, I really do smile occasionally.

Aktion Club and Key Club photos and update are wonderful.

Best wishes and continued health to John Brom!

The world needs happy, healthy, safe and loved kids. And Kids Need Kiwanis!

Thank you to all who work on behalf of our kids.

In Kiwanis spirit,

JANE

International President-Designate, Bellevue, Nebraska
PHIL RIGGIO, a well known Kiwanian and current Secretary of Kiwanis Brighton in Victoria, has released a four-track EP of original songs in support of our District Charitable Foundation. Phil can supply Clubs with as many copies of the EP as they want, free of charge. Clubs can then sell them at A$10 each. Phil asks that all proceeds be donated by the Clubs to the Foundation.

The title of the EP is ‘In The Moment’ and is 15 minutes in length. It contains two ballads and a couple of up-tempo / lighter songs, the product of many months work. Clubs may order display boxes of the CDs (nine CDs per pack) by sending an email to philriggio@ozemail.com.au

If successful, Phil (pictured) plans to repeat the exercise with some new songs.

For those who may not be overly familiar with Phil’s musical background, he is a past finalist in the Australian Songwriters Association Song Contest and has obvious music talent, which is apparent when you play the tracks on the CD “In The Moment”

They are: Second Time Around; Til I Feel It In My Soul; When You Play With Fire; Whatever Happened.

This CD was engineered by Martin Pullan and was put down by Eden-sound Mastering in Melbourne.

Do yourself a favour - listen to these tracks, and even better, grab a copy of the CD!

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Kiwanians’ efforts at primary schools with the Terrific Kids programs are always worthy of support. This photo arrived just on print deadline, showing the End of Year assembly at Sturt St Community School, after Mitcham Kiwanians had helped present the Certificates to the happy recipients. That’s liaison teacher Kerry Southwell at the back, standing next to Mitcham Secretary John Lundy.

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Life’s a journey and it’s good that most of it isn’t planned, just rolling on with a series of circumstances which are life forming, changing and leading. And it’s probably best that you don’t know the plan.

As a Melbourne-born city dweller I didn’t ever consider I’d leave the metropolitan lifestyle. But I have. For the last 46 years I have lived in country Victoria and thrived. Also definitely not foreseen in my life was becoming Governor-elect of Kiwanis Australia. As I mentioned at the Convention in Adelaide, like Alice in Wonderland who fell through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures, I unintentionally fell into the Australia District Board of Trustees by saying ‘yes’ to Lieutenant Governor a few years ago. I found myself surrounded by creatures morphed as Kiwanians who further down the rabbit hole approached me about taking on another adventure. I gave it much thought and eventually said ‘yes’ for better or worse! And as I said, ‘you get what you get and you don’t get upset’.

My recent trip to Indianapolis dug into the big picture. A huge learning curve and a Kiwanis grand plan. It was a wonderful experience to be at Kiwanis International Headquarters, take in the historical displays and meet the KI staff, 83 in all. Led by KI President-elect Jim Rochford I experienced a full-on trip of where Kiwanis has been and where it is right now. The three days saw a super organised conference with over 30 presenters putting forward perspectives on different aspects of Kiwanis.

It was heartening to meet 48 Governors-elect from the North American Regions, Asia Pacific Region and the European Federation. Sixteen of the 48 were female which reflects the Kiwanis global female membership of 31%. All like-minded, there was a buzz of mingling and friendship. I would estimate the average age as around 60. On a worldwide scale, the male Kiwanian average age is 62 and female 58. These statistics are significant.

A warm-up exercise was for everyone to arrange themselves around the room in order of birthdays starting with January 1st. This was done without speaking. It was fun and it provided some good conversations later. It so happened that either side of me were two Governors-elect born on the same date and same year! What are the odds? One a German, the other from Georgia USA - all three of us born on the same day in different parts of the world, just after WWII. An interesting set of similarities and contrasts.

So where have I come from? I’m originally from British stock on both sides, lured here during the 1860s gold rush. As a baby boomer I entered the world at the start of rapid growth in industrialisation and burgeoning urbanisation of Melbourne. With that came prosperity and an opportunity in education, employment, the arts and sport.

I enjoyed growing up in these exciting times. My father with an engineering background built our home over a four year period post-war when materials became available. Life was simple. Milk, bread, groceries and green groceries were delivered and luxuries saved for. My maternal grandfather lived with us for 18 years. He fired up my passion for gardening: growing vegetables, pruning roses and fruit trees. I also had instruction on keeping chooks, playing 500 and holding the golf club and cricket bat correctly. I was an early girl cricketer!

It was an era when higher education was not as important for girls. As an only child, my parents were especially keen for me to have a rounded and extended education. Ballet, competitive swimming, tennis, softball and netball were in the mix. Our backyard with its mini golf course was a meeting spot for the neighbourhood kids. Rounders and cricket as well as concerts, dress up and building cubby houses were great fun. Kickin’ the footy was banned. We were close-knit and like a swarm of bees in school holidays. The very generous mums never knew where the swarm would land.

I sailed through primary school enjoying every day and back then, wanted to be a primary school teacher. I likewise sailed through secondary school and wanted to be a secondary school teacher.

Matriculating from University High School, I skipped across Royal Parade to the University of Melbourne. Major subjects were geography, mathematics and politics. A strange mix after the straight science course I studied at school. Four years later I emerged with a BA Dip.Ed. and was appointed to Seymour High School, an hour’s drive away. My plan was
to do the one year stint in the bush and then get back to Melbourne. That didn't happen. I met John Hyde on the staff at Seymour in 1971 and we wed in 1973. It's amazing what love does! In 1974 we both transferred from Seymour to Shepparton High.

City girl meets country boy who ends up taking her further from Melbourne. Forty-three years later we are still here. We commuted to Melbourne to visit my parents and now we "commute" to visit our children and grandchildren. Sarah and Andrew left home at 18 to live at residential colleges at the University of Melbourne, completed their degrees, had their OS trips and are married, now settled in Melbourne. We have three beautiful grand-daughters to love and spoil: Georgia, Isla and Elizabeth.

After 34 years as a teacher with the last 12 as Curriculum Manager, I retired in 2004. What occupies my days? Family, desktop publishing, reading, gardening, golf, walking our Labrador, Kiwanis, judging performances for Goulburn and Murray Valley Theatre Awards and watching Carlton lose. Travel, yes. Suitcases presented on our retirement have been well used. The most momentous and enjoyable trips were to Britain, Europe and USA, which included our coast to coast walk across England and walks in Tuscany. Separate trips to Thailand, China and Vietnam are also up there.

On a number of occasions I was asked by the late Stewart Russell, the inaugural President of the Kiwanis Club of Shepparton Sunrisers, to join his Club. I kept saying I would consider it after retirement. I was attracted because it was a breakfast club and I was familiar with its excellent meeting and reputation. I was pipped by John who joined first when asked by someone else. I finally joined in 2002. As a wife, mother and teacher, Kiwanis with its primary focus on children was a natural progression.

I was Divisional Secretary for the three years that John was Division 7 Lieutenant Governor. Editor of Australian Kiwanian was in there from 2006-2009 and Secretary/Registrar of the 2007 District Convention hosted by the Sunrisers in Shepparton. Club President followed and then Secretary. Kiwanis has been a wonderful service organisation to slip into. It's a family affair and I believe in the mission and enjoy being part of it. A highlight for me is visiting schools presenting Terrific Kids Awards to the offspring of former students.

Back to Indianapolis and Governor Training. So where is Kiwanis now? Since the halcyon days of the Australia District with over 1600 members in 1987-88 we have gradually lost numbers to the sad total of fewer than 900 as I write. This is a general worldwide trend (for service clubs overall) except in the Asia Pacific Region. You can guess what the main thrust was in Indianapolis. Nothing you haven't heard before, except that the word CRITICAL was used.

I would describe the conference as quite hard hitting. No philosophical flowery stuff to cushion the blow. Kiwanians are actually an endangered species. Baby boomers are holding it together. If it's this group that has to do something to rejuvenate things then we have the right group. Join in my adventure! Given that we are all familiar with The Formula in its third year and the I Plan, now in its second year of implementation, it's a critical time for every member and club of Kiwanis to focus on the I Plan especially the INSPIRATION part, self-preservation.

As learned from the last Board of Trustees meeting, many Clubs don't want to know about the I Plan. "work we don't need, we do it – why write it down?, a KI/District imposition," etc. For all my working days I worked to a plan. A class by class, daily, weekly, term and yearly plan. There was a (Jan's Journey continued overleaf - make sure you read on!!)

Above: The group of Governors-Elect from Asia Pacific region, with local Kiwanian Roy Hedeen at right.
They had great fun and fellowship throughout the year working for kids and could also tick the boxes 12 months later. This year again they have great plans written up. They see it as a way of creating more ideas leading to improvement and growth. It doesn’t take much time. Basically it is writing down what the Club is already doing and providing some more goals or challenges for the year, in a set format. The I Plan provides a common structure for all and ties the organisation together for Kiwanis Australia’s plans and worldwide. It’s a team approach. Is yours one of the 23% of Clubs worldwide that is under charter strength? Try the simplicity of the I Plan.

With their different focus, Rotary and Lions (who have more members in USA than Kiwanis in the world) don’t have that same priority for kids. Our mission statement was further emphasised, when two weeks before I landed in Indianapolis, it was announced that the Kiwanis International Foundation had been revamped and re-named the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. I was fortunate to meet and have a chat with the Kiwanis Children’s Fund President 2017-18 John Mayfield. The change provides an enhanced understanding of the purpose of Kiwanis and a stronger connection to the mission.

There was much presented and discussed in Indianapolis in relation to rejuvenation of Kiwanis. One remedy is – if every Kiwanian adds a new member then we would have an increase of 100 per cent. Is this too simple?

I won’t elaborate here about other strategies discussed. International President-elect Jim Rochford (right) is labelling the 2017-18 year “The Eye of the Tiger”. It is not surprising that the focus of one eye is on membership growth and new club building while the other eye is on kids. NOTHING NEW – but we need to do something about it now. You can’t help children if you don’t have enough members to do much. . .

Is this too simple? Kids need Kiwanis.
Ever in service, JAN.
MOSAWE WATER PROJECT

During this year's District Convention in August, one of the keynote speakers was Lea Sander whose interesting talk informed us of many shortcomings in the Mosawe (pronounced Moshaway) Valley near the Kalahari Desert, Botswana, especially the lack of potable water supply to the medical clinics in that part of the world.

Visiting specialists are non-existent, adding to the rather dire situation over in that part of Africa. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, hypertension, teenage pregnancies, alcohol and substance abuse are all serious problems in the area, and are escalating, yet they have no water supply to the clinic buildings for toilet and washing facilities. Things that we take for granted in Australia.

A request has gone out to the 47 Clubs in our District (thank you to Spencer Harding for getting the ball rolling), asking to consider this situation and whether each Club can donate A$100 to this water project. The response so far has been encouraging, and we’ll endeavour to keep you all updated on how this is progressing.

The plan is to present Ms Sander with an overall cheque, to help get this Mosawe project off the ground. Thank you to all Kiwanians who have assisted towards this funding request. That’s Lea, the lady in red, pictured top of the page during her Convention address.
ONLINE FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Donations can now be made online to the Foundation for the Kiwanis partnership with the HeartKids ‘Grants-in-Aid’ program for medical research for childhood heart disease.

Just go to www.givenow.com.au/kiwanisheartkids to make your tax deductible donation. A receipt will be issued to you immediately.

This Kiwanis Australia signature program provides an annual grant to HeartKids Australia. Since 2011 Kiwanis has donated $170,000 and together with other sponsors this has enabled HeartKids Australia to grow into a respected small grants program. Twenty-nine projects have been funded to a total value of A$1.31 million.

MOORABBIN HONOURS CHARTER MEMBER WITH FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

Moorabbin Club made special use of the new Kiwanis Australia Foundation Fellowship recently with a presentation to a past member Gus MacFarlane (right) on his 90th birthday.

Gus was a Moorabbin Club Charter member and Secretary in 1970. He became President in 1973-74 before moving on to be Division 6 Lt Governor in 1976/78. He was awarded life membership.

Reluctantly he left Kiwanis to follow his passion for singing with the Australian Welsh choir and to this day he cherishes the experience of performing at London’s Royal Albert Hall.

However he always continued his interest in Kiwanis activities and the special friendships he had made over many years. Moorabbin Kiwanis Club successfully lured him back out of retirement and he is now a regular volunteer at the Club’s Bunnings barbecues. This support has been invaluable as it helped Moorabbin fulfil its Model Club commitment for the eliMiNaTe Program.

Even at age 90 years young, Gus remains an active member of the community, regularly providing transport for the elderly on behalf of the Kingston City Council which we nearly forgot has donated $170,000 and together with other sponsors this has enabled HeartKids Australia to grow into a much respected small grants program. Twenty-nine projects have been funded to a total value of A$1.31 million. Gus continues to this day with his involvement at the local Dingley Men’s Shed.

The presentation to Gus of the Kiwanis Australia Foundation Fellowship at a recent Club meeting was a fitting way for the Club to show its appreciation.

No doubt there are similar past members in all Clubs, or even in the community, for whom a Kiwanis Australia Foundation Fellowship would be a nice way to show appreciation of what they do.

Donations for this program will support future grant making for Kiwanis Australia programs.

More information available by email to kadcf@kiwanis.org.au

FOOTNOTE: Glenelg Kiwanis Club is one of the latest to come on board, by donating a sizeable amount to the Memorial Fellowship in honour of late member David Potter.
TARGET 2M

The Kiwanis Foundation aims to promote Research Programs in support of Kiwanis mission to “Improve the living standards of the world’s children.”

The World Health Organisation reports
20% of the world’s population are children aged under 16
Children under 16 are 100% of our future. Children need our help and our support.

Research shows that:
> 120,000 children are diagnosed annually with cancer in Australia
> 14,000 children are diagnosed annually with brain diseases
> 10% of newborns suffer from congenital heart diseases
> 300,000 births annually with Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell anaemia

The most common cancers diagnosed by life stage are:
- Leukaemia for children and people 0 – 24
- Breast cancer for women 25 – 64
- Melanoma for men 24 – 49
- Prostate cancer for men 50 – 64
- Colorectal cancer for people aged 65 and over

Medical Research is essential to find better ways to prevent and treat diseases in the future. Lack of resources prevents many research projects.

The National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC) provides grants for specific research projects but funding is limited. *(NHMRC contributes at least $500-$600 million annually to support research)*

Help us support medical research projects through **THE KIWANIS FOUNDATION (TARGET 2M)**

Support the Kiwanis Foundation: **Donate Now**

**ALL DONATIONS** to the **FOUNDATION** are **Tax Deductible**
Kiwanis makes a “Token” gesture at Northern Bay College, Geelong

School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) is a whole school approach to creating an environment, which encourages effective learning through the development of a positive, calm and welcoming atmosphere. Northern Bay College (NBC) endeavors to teach students how to behave appropriately and uphold the core values of Respect, Collaboration, Outcomes, Equity.

An important aspect of the SWPBS framework is to provide students with feedback on the accuracy and use of their social skills, in the same manner that feedback is provided for successful and accurate academic performance. A schoolwide feedback and acknowledgement system serves the following purposes:

- Increases the likelihood that desired behaviours will be repeated
- Focuses staff and student attention on desired behaviours
- Fosters a positive school climate
- Reduces the need for engaging in time consuming disciplinary measures.

When new or difficult social skill or behaviours are being learned, more teacher and external feedback systems are used to give students information, reinforcement and encouragement about their social behaviour. As students become more fluent in their use of the new or difficult social skill, external feedback systems can be reduced and replaced by more natural environmental or self-managed feedback. Using an acknowledgement or reward system is not bribing a student to behave appropriately. A bribe occurs when something is offered to a person before the behaviour to get them to behave in a specific way. SWPBS acknowledges and rewards students for following schoolwide expectations and rules after the behaviour occurs. Rewards and acknowledgements are earned, not offered as ‘payoff’ in exchange for good behaviour. The acknowledgement system is used to assist staff in focusing on the positive and to assist students to know what to do rather than just what NOT to do. It is important that the feedback and acknowledgement system uses naturally occurring, contextually and culturally appropriate forms of feedback and/or rewards that involve all members of the school community and are applied in all aspects of school life.

The acknowledgement system that has been devised at NBC to provide students with feedback on their progress, is the use of a Token. Through the Kiwanis Club of Geelong they have been able to access their very own tokens with each CORE Value printed on them. This has given the Tokens meaning and is clear what the student is receiving the token for.

These Tokens will be used across the four Prep-Year 8 Campuses which will reach the impressive figure of around 1800 students. The students will be given the opportunity to bank their tokens with their teachers and be eligible for an incentive from a list which students have had a say in developing. Thank you to Geelong Kiwanians for helping provide this Token system.
TTG AKTION CLUB’S GARDEN PROJECT

Greg Anderson from Tea Tree Gully Kiwanis spotted an article in the North-East Leader Messenger a few months ago which grabbed his attention.

The item in this local newspaper was about the Pioneer Court Community Garden at Highbury. This garden was the brainchild of retired builder Mario Minuzzo, utilising the disused aquaduct at the rear of his property. SA Water came to the party to allow the land to be used for a community garden.

In the Messenger article Mario said that it was planned to incorporate a disability section in the garden. This caught Greg’s attention as the TTG Kiwanis sponsors an Aktion Club of young intellectually disabled adults - the Gully Go-Getters.

Kiwanis have now taken three memberships in the garden and is responsible for the maintenance of eleven raised garden beds. Early October a barbecue was held in the garden and with assistance from the Aktion Club, members planted out the boxes with seedlings donated by Bunnings and Stratco.

There is a garden committee that administers the site, with plot holders paying the sum of $1 per day for each site. The garden received a $9000 grant from TTG Council which has assisted in fencing, extending watering and provision of a pergola.

These photos show the raised planting boxes which were obtained at a cheap rate from a potato grower in the Riverland. This project should be a long term commitment for the Club and has provided a worthwhile focus for the Kiwanis Aktion members.

(Many thanks to Greg for the article and photos)
WEDDING WOES

The perfect wedding had begun, blushing bride and nervous groom at the altar when the vicar asked the regulatory question: “If anyone has reason why this couple should not be joined in holy matrimony let them now speak up”. The assembled guests descended into pandemonium when an extremely attractive young lady in a mini-skirt clutching a very newborn baby slowly walked up the aisle, and approached the main wedding party. The best man fainted, the previously blushing bride burst into tears, mother-of-the-bride hit the groom with her handbag, and fearing a bad statement from the lovely looking young lady, the vicar sternly asked her for an explanation. In a nervous voice she said, “Can you please speak up, we can’t hear down back of the church!”

60th HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

He was a widower and she a widow, and they had known each other for many years, having been high school classmates and often attending class reunions in the past.

This 60th anniversary of their class, the widower and the widow made a foursome with two other singles. They had a wonderful evening, their spirits high, with the widower throwing admiring glances across the table . . . and the widow smiling coyly back at him.

Finally, during one dance, he plucked up courage, asking, “Will you marry me?”

After six seconds of careful consideration, she answered, “Yes... yes I will!”

 Needless to say, the evening ended on a happy note for the widower. However, the next morning he was troubled. Did she say “Yes” or did she say ‘No’? He couldn’t remember!

Try as he may, he just could not recall. He went over and over the previous evening’s conversation, but his mind was blank.

He remembered asking the question, but for the life of him could not recall her response.

With fear and trepidation, he picked up the phone and called her. First, he explained to her, he couldn’t remember things as well as he used to.

Then he reviewed the past evening.

As he gained a little more courage, he then inquired, “When I asked if you’d marry me, did you say “Yes” or did you say “No”?

“Why, you silly man,” she replied. “I said Yes. Yes, I will! And I meant it with all my heart!”

The widower was delighted. He felt his heart skip a beat.

Then she continued. “And I’m so glad you called. Actually I couldn’t remember who it was that proposed to me!”

Below: For America, it could be a real Mickey Mouse outfit!