AUSTRALIA'S LATEST KEY CLUB CHARTERED IN ADELAIDE!

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Brisbane Club supporting MD
Hi, I’m David and I’m a chocaholic. Ooops! wrong article. Let’s start again. Having had the pleasure of editing a variety of Club publications over the past 40 years (not just for Kiwanis), I haven’t previously been involved as the editor of a national magazine. Until now.

Therefore it was with some trepidation I agreed to being handed the keys to Kiwanis Australia District publication (a couple of wines works wonders . . . ), but seriously, I’ve so far found it a fairly seamless transition from editing Adelaide Kiwanis monthly magazine over the past 140-150 issues, to taking on the rather more daunting task of producing a quarterly that enjoys a far wider circulation.

Firstly, it’s important that we pay tribute on behalf of all our District Kiwanians, to the retiring AK Editor Tim Vine, who really has done us proud for three years with a top quality publication, that I’m trying to live up to. Somehow. And how on earth Tim produced AK alongside editing his own Moorabbin Club’s excellent monthly Newsletter, is beyond my comprehension.

Amongst the detritus I’ve accumulated during 20+ years in Kiwanis is a collection of Australian Kiwanians dating back several decades, and an obvious pattern evolving has been the propensity for successive Editors to adjust AK to their respective “styles”. While this doesn’t necessarily provide one with “carte blanche” to change Australian Kiwanian beyond recognition, I guess there is the scope to revisit the layouts, content style, and so on.

As my fine predecessor Mr Vine used to opine, “Do send in your feedback, offerings, items, anything you may consider worthy of consideration for inclusion in future AK editions.” There’s been a rather quantum change in direction of AK style for this edition, which means you, our Kiwanian members, have the right to comment regarding your December AK.

So please email away your comments, you will likely love (or otherwise!) your new-look Australian Kiwanian, and constructive criticism, brickbats or bouquets are ever welcome by the editorial office. Suggestions for any possible feature inclusions in the future are also most acceptable.

Going by previous publication cycles for AK, they are due out in September (soon after our Convention), December (that’s this issue!), March and June, so it’s fairly straightforward. Just submit any items prior to that schedule and hopefully we can look at including your contribution. Letters to the Editor especially welcome.

By now, you’d have read and digested in the last AK, the various Convention reports - both for District and International. This should whet your appetite for taking the plunge, and attending next year’s Convention(s) - the 2016 District event in Adelaide is your absolute minimum involvement. Do consider joining in the fun!

In closing, it is on the agenda for next year, hopefully returning AK to the “buzz” format of having flip pages viewed on the internet, via our website - I’m sorry we didn’t quite make it in that format for this issue, but it’s in the plan. Keep enjoying Kiwanis!

In service, DAVID
Some words from our ever active Governor BILL SKULLY

First, let me start by saying how pleased I was that David took up my offer to become editor of this magazine.

Our Kiwanis year started off quickly with an electronic Board meeting, mainly to approve the coming year’s budget. There is only one Lieutenant Governor position left to fill - Division 1. We’re working on rectifying that.

On the first of every month I am committed to an electronic meeting with our International Counsellor (Marcel Kreienbuhl), who is very supportive and proactive of us Kiwanians in Australia.

Early October I travelled with Julie to Perth and met with Carol and Jim Chantry, but before much else was achieved, Julie suddenly took seriously ill with a heart problem, and landed in high dependency for five days. Thankfully, she has since returned to full health.

While Julie was recovering I took a lightning visit to the Kiwanis Club of Brisbane. Thanks go to Mal and Bev Lancaster. What a great evening of business and fellowship. And two new members! Congratulations to Lieutenant Governor Stephen Legg - he’s covering more miles than Cobb and Co.!

Back home and a few days later helped to charter a new Key Club at Brighton High School, with Peter Zander. There were many young enthusiastic faces. Well done, Bob Sitters as LG of Division 8. My intention is to write a full article about all the wonderful people involved in getting this new Kiwanis Club underway.

I had a meeting with Roseworthy-Hewett recently to help with the National Convention 2016 organisation, and will also be visiting the rapidly growing Mitcham Kiwanis Club. They have SA Police Commissioner Grant Stevens as guest speaker, along with a possible new member or two. Last month I helped sponsor Waverley Club’s Stephen Green’s marathon running efforts. Am hoping he’s not still pavement pounding!

I would like to thank all the people who have sent messages of support to Julie. She is now well, and back to attending meetings like Athelstone’s Handover, and organising things (me).

A busy month! And this is just the beginning. Yours in Kiwanis,

WILLIAM SKULLY
Governor Australia District
governor@austkiwanis.org.au

DISTRICT BITS ’N PIECES

WELL DONE to Moorabbin, Victoria Club stalwart’s TIM VINE who now joins the coveted ranks of those who have been bestowed with Zeller Awards.

Immediate Past Governor Peter Zander has had better Octobers. Monday October 26 his father passed away, a few days following Peter’s hospitalisation for a knee operation. Our condolences go to the Zander family.

In the next issue of AK, hopefully we’ll be able to report on another successful Kiwanis All Ford Day from Geelong, where this annual event has become not only a great fundraiser but also an effective marketing tool in lifting the profile of Kiwanis.

To all Australian Kiwanians - don’t forget to visit our updated District website: www.kiwanis.org.au

Brighton (SA) Kiwanis Club was amongst the nominees for one of the best supported categories when Awards were announced on Sunday October 25 in Adelaide at the annual ACSO Awards (Associateon of Combined Service Organisations). Brighton’s nomination was for their Homeless Backpack Project, which was a great venture, where local homeless folk were distributed packs containing warm clothing, toiletries, snack foods, eating utensils, etc.
SO, WHO IS SUE?

In our centennial year, Kiwanis has really ticked many boxes for 2015, including becoming the first worldwide service organisation to install a female as International President, this feat not having been achieved yet by notables such as Rotary or Lions. In this Australian Kiwanian article we discover more about leading lady Ms SUE PETRISIN, who early October took over as President of Kiwanis International . . .

This year 15 women will serve alongside Sue Petrisin as District leaders, or Governors. The history-making precedent continues in 2016-17 with JANE ERICKSON of Nebraska who will become the second female to lead the international organisation as President when she takes office in October next year. Thirty per cent of Kiwanis members worldwide are women - an impressive stat.

Rising through the ranks of Kiwanis, Petrisin began her affiliation with the organisation as a member of its youth clubs. She was one of the first women to join the East Lansing Club in Michigan, as soon as women were allowed (in a ground-breaking move) to be admitted in 1987.

“It’s truly an honour to be the first female President of Kiwanis International,” Petrisin said. “Most importantly, it’s an honor to serve alongside Kiwanians around the world who are dedicated to improving the lives of children, in their communities and in places they’ll never visit.”

As a Kiwanis Club member, Sue Petrisin has participated in service projects that have benefitted her community of East Lansing. Globally, Petrisin has raised money for, visited with and worked alongside volunteers who will help eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus from the globe. Through the elMiNaTe Project, a Kiwanis partnership with UNICEF, US$100 million has been raised toward a goal of US$110 million to eliminate the disease. It’s the second global project for Kiwanis and UNICEF; the two partnered on the Iodine Deficiency Disorders initiative, raising over US$100 million to eradicate IDD, the leading preventable cause of mental deficiencies. This effort has been heralded as one of the most successful worldwide health initiatives ever.

An Assistant Director of Alumni Programs at Michigan State Uni, Sue finds working with students is invigorating and rewarding. “Michigan State students, and all the students in Key Club and Circle K have one thing in common – they want to help others,” Petrisin said. “In my role at the university it’s been rewarding to reconnect graduates to the university to support a project or a program and with the Kiwanis youth programs, it’s inspiring to work with them as they seek to make changes in the world. Many of their service projects are targeted to their community, but these kids always have the bigger picture in mind. These are the future leaders of the world.”

As a child, Petrisin and her six siblings always volunteered in their community. “I was raised in a family that always reached out to help others, and it’s a tradition we continue today,” she said.

Sue Petrisin is a native of Alpena and graduated from Alpena High School in 1980. It was during her sophomore year at AHS that she and her friends received an invitation to join Key Club, the high school organisation sponsored by Kiwanis International and its youth members to assist Kiwanians in their mission of serving the children of the world. Sue recalls that after her first service project at a local nursing home she decided that this Kiwanis Club was something she wanted to be a part of.

After graduating from AHS, Sue was unsure of her direction. She had to pay her own way through college and enrolled at ACC because it was affordable and she could live at home. In addition, she wanted the opportunity to explore new areas while she tried to determine a career path.

Sue said, “I felt that the professors had a genuine interest in their students and their classroom success. By completing my associate’s degree at ACC, I had the basic foundation of course work that would transfer to Michigan State University.”

While attending ACC for two years, Sue continued her membership in Kiwanis and belonged to the Circle K Club, a college-level organisation. Following her graduation from ACC in 1982, Sue transferred to Michigan State University. She is a three-time MSU graduate earning a Bachelor degree in food science in 1985, a Bachelor of Dietetics in 1992, and a Master’s degree in human resources and labor relations in 2009.

Sue began her employment with MSU in 1985, and for 28 years held various positions within the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services. In January 2011, she was named the associate director of the MSU Alumni Association where she is responsible for programming and alumni travel tours.

Sue is a 32-year member of Kiwanis and has been passionate about our organisation, and making a difference in the lives of others. Prior to joining, she served as advisor for MSU’s Circle K Club, as women were not eligible to join Kiwanis until 1987.

(continued next page)
Following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Kiwanis opened up its membership to women in 1987 and Sue became the first female to join the Kiwanis Club of East Lansing. She knew there were members who did not support the admission of women in Kiwanis – yet they are now among her biggest backers.

Throughout her membership in Kiwanis, Sue has held various positions within the Kiwanis Club of East Lansing, earning honours as Distinguished President in 1995. She also served on the International Board as a Trustee for three years. While the volunteer aspect is key to all Kiwanis clubs, Sue says the leadership skills she’s learned in Kiwanis have served her well in other endeavors, even at Michigan State University.

“The youth members learn about leadership in subtle ways, and some progress to leadership roles such as Club president or international president,” our leading lady said. “Every student learns the value of working together toward a common cause, of teamwork and the rewards of completing a project. There is no doubt that the leadership skills I learned as a student have been put to good use as an adult - in Kiwanis and in my role at the university.”

During her year as president, Ms Petrisin will focus on the Kiwanis motto of serving the children of the world by asking Kiwanis clubs and their members to re-commit to the foundation of the organisation.

“I want our members to focus on projects and activities that will help children in their communities and children a world away, because we know kids need Kiwanis now more than ever. In an age of municipal budget cuts, decreased school funding and fewer civic organisations, it's important for Kiwanians to identify the ways children in their community can benefit from a service club, whether it's providing school supplies, building a playground or sponsoring a youth club.”

FOOTNOTE: Many of our Australian Kiwanians were lucky enough to meet Sue Petrisin at 2014 District Convention in Shepparton where her Kiwanis credentials came to the fore. Some even more fortunate Aussies were able to catch Sue again in June this year at International Convention in Indianapolis.

You’ve read the rave reviews from this year’s 2015 International Indianapolis Convention.

You can go one better by registering interest for 2016 in Toronto. Immediate Past President John Button reckons this one will be “even better”, but he is Canadian! Regardless, do keep June 23 to 26 in mind.

Toronto is a city of 5.7 million and will make an excellent host city.

2016 DISTRICT CONVENTION

SAGE HOTEL, South Tce, Adelaide
AUGUST 25-28 (Thursday to Sunday)

Returning to the longer format, this 48th District Convention is being hosted by Roseworthy-Hewett Kiwanis Club. Book those dates right away!

Entry forms with full program and accommodation details are now available - check the Australian Kiwanis website. 5% Discount if paid by 31/5/16.

BRING ALONG CLUB BANNERS FOR DISPLAY. TOURS OF CITY, HAHNDORF / BAROSSA AVAILABLE
NEW KEY CLUB CHARTERED!

It would be understating to describe the recent Charter night for Australia’s latest (Kiwanis) Key Club as anything but a grand occasion.

Held at the Morphettville Junction Function Centre early September, there were about 70-80 people present to witness this historic event, where Division 8 joined Div 3 and Div 10 in hosting a Key Club. Local politician David Spiers was amongst the invited guests who included Peter Zander OAM, Governor Bill Skully, Lt Gov Div 8 Bob Sitters and Lt Gov Div 3 David McNabb. Kiwanis Clubs represented included Brighton, Prospect and Reedbeds, while Glenelg Club was prominent, being the main sponsor Club.

Glenelg President Mike Blake began the meeting, after which Glenelg secretary Peter Symons gave a talk, mainly for the benefit of the high school students present, on the beginnings of Kiwanis. Then we heard through Bob Sitters how three years ago Olivia at Brighton High School was approached with the idea of starting up a Key Club. There were protracted negotiations before matters were finally progressed to the stage of being able to Charter, with 36 students electing to become part of this inaugural Club.

Initial Club executive are - President: Marcus Falckh, Secretary: Kaitlyn McKenzie, Treasurer: Tahlia Kaleski, with Ms Zoe Bodecott being the school’s Key Club administrator. Apart from Kiwanis, Tahlia has a real interest in preserving the gorillas of Indonesia and has spoken at school gatherings on this topic.

STOP PRESS: A recent (early December) update reveals that Zoe has just been transferred to a Sydney school, so the Key Club will be looking for a new liaison person. On the plus-side, this Key Club has certainly been active lately, holding fundraising for White Ribbon Week. A barbecue was held at school during the week, and raised $1280 for this worthwhile cause. Well done to our young Kiwanians.

Above: New members of Brighton High Key Club with their certificates after the Charter ceremony. Great to see a mixture of “lads and lasses” amongst these young Kiwanians.
Tony has been there, done that several times over in Kiwanis, including holding various positions such as Lt Governor, Club President, Hixson Award recipient, and fulfilling a fine job as District Secretary. As you will ascertain in this interesting article, our 2015-2016 Governor Designate certainly isn’t into firing blanks!

Introducing District Governor-Elect

TONY GUNN

More than 60 years ago, my mother christened me Anthony Lapsley Gunn, but why, I know not. She always called me Tony, so that is that. I am the second of five, the sons and daughter of an architect and bank ledger operator. We lived south, north and east of Adelaide, but within a 2 km radius of the centre, Victoria Square.

What else is important — my maternal grandfather was named after a lighthouse on Cape Willoughby, Kangaroo Island while my paternal grandfather was born and bred in Bendigo, the grandson of an 1830s immigrant who played a role in Bendigo’s early history as businessman, politician, reformist and publican. An interesting man, my grandfather was a champion rifle shot, so must have been the original pop gun.

I was the black sheep of the family, choosing electrical engineering at Adelaide Uni. At University I was President of the car club, vice-president of the jazz club and committee member of the engineering society. For sport, I played baseball from primary school to university before learning that I could not throw, bat, or catch (a slow learner).

My real passion was motorsport, having been a corner marshal for track racing, navigator for rallies and Confederation of Australian Motorsport steward. As navigator, I even had some success at State level. Could read a map but still couldn’t drive. I also owned a 1936 Auburn classic car while at school which was never restored and remained undrivable, eventually sold to buy a suit to go to a job interview to get my first job.

I left Adelaide as soon as I graduated, heading for the riches of the emerging mining empires in the Hamersley Ranges, but after two years was enticed to Bougainville in the South Pacific. From there it was a second time and finally South Africa. I left Adelaide as soon as I graduated, heading for the riches of the emerging mining empires in the Hamersley Ranges, but after two years was enticed to Bougainville in the South Pacific. From there it was a second time and finally South Africa.

Community service has always been with me, having been encouraged by my mother at an early age to be a wholehearted participant rather than a passenger. As with most of my age group, it started with cubs and scouts, then moved to Rotoract at high school, various clubs and societies at University, but put career and family first until age 36 when I joined Round Table in South Africa. In the first year I was appointed the equivalent of Division newsletter editor and served on the board. I transferred to Apex in Adelaide until ageing out at the magic mark of 40, then Treasurer on the Unley High School Council, President of the UHS Rowing Club, Secretary and President of MacRoberston’s GHS Council and eventually to Kiwanis. Pauline and I joined Port Phillip Club in 2003.

Is Kiwanis a passion? Good question. I certainly believe in Kiwanis and, more importantly, believe that we can make the world a better place for children. I have served on Kiwanis Port Phillip’s Board effectively since joining, and in all positions (sometimes simultaneously). Pauline has served two years as Club President and runs our Terrific Kids program.

Port Phillip reduced to five members soon after Pauline and I joined and has since slowly and steadily climbed to 15. Two long-time Kiwanis members, Steve Hughes and Peter Cownley have guided me and encouraged me to get involved beyond being a regular Club meeting attendee.

We have attended interclubs, Division meetings and every District Convention since Cobram’s in 2004, enjoying the many friendships that we have forged.

This level of involvement has been invaluable to heighten my Kiwanis experience, particularly the many international friends. It was an International Board of Trustee member who was very influential in me being nominated as Governor Elect. His petitioning was persistent and unrelenting.

What was the highlight of the 100 Year celebration at Indianapolis in 2015? Realisation of two childhood dreams – visiting the factory / museum in Auburn, Indiana where my classic car was manufactured, and meeting a fellow Kiwanian there who allowed me to drive his 1936 Auburn. That certainly put a smile on my face and maybe underlines that Kiwanis is just one of my passions and is compatible with all my interests.

She has managed to achieve very high critical acclaim everywhere she performs.

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AUSTRALIAN KIWANIAN - DECEMBER 2015
Here is some coverage from various Handover functions provided by many District Clubs. Several are gleaned from bulletins submitted, but if your Club isn’t mentioned here (hopefully next issue) it could be information wasn’t supplied.

**PROSPECT HANOVER**

When Prospect Kiwanis held its Handover night late September, the usual Club members were joined by Brian Emery, Mike Flavell, Janine Keulen plus Lt Governor Division 3 David McNabb who performed the “ceremonials”. Also amongst the guests were Adele and Yoban from Roma Mitchell School, where Prospect is hosting a Key Club. Both Yoban and Adele spoke on their roles at the school, and updated us on Key Club activities.

There are over a dozen Key Clubbers who meet weekly, and in this past year have raised around $1000 in fund-raising. We also heard that Prospect Kiwanis Club is working on initiating a third Terrific Kids programme, which is marvellous for a Club with a smaller membership base.

David O’Loughlin had the pleasant task of introducing Yoban to the meeting prior to him speaking.

**GUMTREE GOSSIP**

The Kiwanis Club of Glenelg Inc.

GLENELG KIWANIS CLUB generates a lot of its fund-raising from an annual Cocktail Party - Auction Evening, which has always been a successful event. This year the Club reports returning a profit of $13,400! Well done to Glenelg.
BAROSSA

Barossa Kiwanis Handover held in September was a ramped-up event combined with an EliMinaTe Fund-raiser at a local hall which included guest performing artists, etc. Most impressive - and they raised about $4500 from the concert plus an extra $1000 from catering proceeds!! Not many Handover functions can boast a successful outcome like that. And there were around 300 people attending.

Outgoing President Sandy Blythman paid tribute to the Noacks (Dennis and Marianne) who last Kiwanis year undertook the roles of Secretary and Treasurer, along with running their own busy business.

Incoming President is Robert Nitschke (pictured above), a stalwart who has co-membership with Roseworthy-Hewett. Robert will make a great President for this vibrant Club. His credentials include having attended last year’s ASPAC International Convention held in Japan.

MOOROOPNA KIWANIS NEW BOARD

Mooroopna Club in Victoria have held their Changeover, and the new Board is shown left, with Lt Governor Division 7 Jan Hyde who officiated.

Outgoing President Arthur Duke has handed over to Cedric Hall, whose executive includes Secretary Murray Shields and Treasurer Ted Davis.

Other Board members include past Lt Gov Div 7 Sev Duhring, 1995-96 Governor Louis D’Amore, plus Ian Saunders, David Bourke, Jim Douglass, Bill Viney, and a recent Past President Garry Alexander (now Vice-President).

COMBINED SERVICE CLUBS DINNER

The Victorian Combined Service Clubs function was held on October 15, this year being hosted by Mooroopna Kiwanis. Guest speaker was Lloyd Mawson (shown left accepting a Thank You). The 2015 Mooroopna-McLennan Award has gone to Bill Crosby (shown right) for many years dedicated service to St Vincent de Paul Mooroopna.

HAIR, HAIR, IT’S SEV !!

Past Lieutenant Governor for Div 7, Sev Duhring, last month married long-time partner Robyn. Our best wishes go to these two, who have a high profile in Victorian Kiwanis circles. The happy couple are pictured, right, at last year’s Convention in Shepparton and it’s a significant photo especially of Severin. He’s shown as a very hirsuit striking Viking, but Sev has a hairy tale to reveal, below. Read on!

SEV DUHRING has recently had a “hair-raising” experience. In fact it was a fund-raising “hair not there” experience. Faye Alexander issued a challenge for Mr Duhring to shave his head, whereupon he agreed to going through with the “Sev Shave” but only if at least $1000 was raised, and the event had to be timed for after his wedding.

Both conditions were met, especially when just over $1300 was raised - the Mooroopna Kiwanis Club and Mooroopna Lions being two of the major donors.

The photos here show Sev, during and after the Big Shave which even received substantial publicity via the local media.
Brian Jacquier (left) & Jeff Walker from West Lakes Club clean up after a combined barbecue on a November Sunday where lunch was cooked on three hotplates for an Army reunion. It took a small army of Kiwanians and family helpers to cater for this luncheon as there were about 600 people waiting for lunch to be served up. Quite a military operation! (Brian’s a Charter member of West Lakes)

Further late news from West Lakes-Grange Club reveals they are lending support to help the Wildfire Appeal after the severe killer fire that torched a large area north of the Barossa recently. A cheque for $3000 is being sent directly towards the relief effort.

On October 18 Moorabbin Club took part in the annual Riders Disabled Assoc. Games Day, held at RDA Moorabbin. The Kiwanis Club provides a sausage sizzle and drinks to those taking part and their families. Proceeds from this worthwhile event go to RDA Moorabbin.

JOHN LUNDE is shown here with his awards after he received Top Gong for 2014-15 Best Secretary which was announced at District Convention. This is the coveted Sid Curry Award and well deserved for John’s efforts as a long-serving Kiwanian. Formerly from Athelstone Club, John is currently with Mitcham and along with wife Renee is a veteran of past International Conventions. His credentials include being a Double Diamond Hixson – John also served nearly 20 years as a volunteer DJ on a local community radio station. And that’s just the start of his service record with Kiwanis! Congratulations to John.

One of the District’s largest Clubs, Rostrevor-Campbelltown has held its Handover, and the new Board is pictured above, during the Installation ceremony. Joan Tye was the outgoing President, with the new leader being Graham Goddard.
ANNUAL CLUB BULLETIN AWARD

Each year at District Convention, amongst the Awards presented is one for **Best Club Bulletin**, a rather sought-after recognition of an individual Club’s regular publication that aims to keep members informed on local events, entertained and up-to-date on all matters Kiwanian, both here and internationally. To be eligible, it is anticipated that either Club Secretaries or Editors send in a copy of their publications on a regular basis, to the AK Editor. These days that’s usually by email, but submitting a hard copy version is also highly acceptable. Factors which help gain points include regularity, content, presentation, ease-of-reading and inclusion of “special features” such as interviews, member profiles, updates on District or overseas Kiwanian news, etc.

KI FOUNDATION RANKS HIGHLY!

Kiwanis International Foundation has just received the highest ranking from CHARITY NAVIGATOR - the USA’s premier charity evaluator. Charity Navigator regularly rates non-profit organisations on financial health, commitment to accountability and transparency. KIF’s coveted 4-star rating puts it in a very select group for high-performing charities. Of the thousands of non-profits that Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns the 4-star tick - a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness.

Thank you Kiwanians worldwide for being part of our mission to Serve the Children of the World.

Sincerely, ANN UPDEGRAFF SPLETH, CEO, Kiwanis International Foundation

BRISBANE CLUB (from front page)

Earlier this year, Brisbane Kiwanis had an evening where their guest speakers were from an organisation well worth supporting - Muscular Dystrophy Qld. Brisbane President Mal Lancaster is shown here with MD Fundraising coordinator Celeste Baker, and CEO Helene Frayne, during presentation of a certificate and cheque to the MD organisation.

Pictured above is some of the gathering early September during a poignant moment for Adelaide Club Kiwanians. This was the “last supper” - the final dinner meeting for this Club which had been operating for 46 years but has now sadly gone into recess. Governor Peter Zander OAM was amongst a big attendance that included several past members. The gent nearest camera is Peter O’Keefe, one of the Club’s two remaining Charter members.

At a recent meeting of Mitcham Kiwanis, those present were privileged to hear a guest speaker “with a difference” - and he is actually a Club member!

The SA Police Commissioner Grant Stevens was able to talk candidly about how he realised his first vocation (price tagging socks in a department store) was not really “him”, so he looked at a switch to the Fire Department, before being accepted into a Police cadet intake. Grant rose rapidly through the ranks, being made up early as a Sergeant, followed by more senior roles, before last year advancing from Deputy Commissioner to the “top cop” position. His job doesn’t often allow the chance for public speaking but Grant has agreed to address one of the sessions at our Convention next year. That’s a real coup!

MITCHAM CLUB MEETING

From left: Bill Skully, Mitcham President Renee Lundy, SA Police Commissioner Grant Stevens, David McNabb

ANNUAL UPDEGRAFF SPLETH, CEO, Kiwanis International Foundation
In future editions of AK, we hope to lodge regular updates about what’s happening around the various Aktion Clubs in Australia District.

There are currently five Aktion Clubs around SA plus one in Newcastle and whenever we receive any Aktion news, we’ll endeavour to give coverage to this very worthwhile aspect of Kiwanis.

Adelaide Achievers Aktion Club (now into its 23rd year) recent monthly meeting was graced with a couple of international guests - Past Pacific Governor Chris Cole and Helen were in town from NZ for a few days and managed to catch the action. BUT, there were a few glitches that night. A main coordinator and Past Governor John Rowell was a late apology after a family illness, so (another Past Governor) Janine Keulen undertook to carry on with the planned viewing of a video that had been arranged weeks beforehand (the movie Paper Planes).

However, our Kiwanians were unaware that just days prior, the local Council had removed the large TV and video machine from the meeting room, so there was suddenly difficulty in deciding how to view this video. No problem, one of the parents had a laptop which can play videos, so a quick trip home to bring back her portable and the computer was set up. More chaos - the desired disk wouldn’t work (some incompatibility issues!) so Plan B saw us watching a Simpsons movie clip which a member happened to have on hand. Oh dear, the volume couldn’t really be increased & the small screen made for challenging viewing. So that had to be flagged amidst Janine tearing her hair out, following one “testy” situation after another (life wasn’t meant to be easy!). Fortunately other activities were substituted and the meeting carried on. The NZ visitors gave a short impromptu talk on how the Shaky Isles earthquakes have impacted on life for Kiwanians and others, over the far side of the Tasman. The photo below was taken from that meeting and shows the Aktioneers along with Janine plus the Coles from New Zealand.

A couple of months ago, current President of Adelaide Achievers Aktion Club (John Hutton) was in Brisbane playing as part of SA’s State team in a national 10-pin bowling competition. He was injured during the game and past Lt Governor Div 2 Pat McKinney responded to an appeal for help, visiting John in hospital and providing practical support. This was greatly appreciated by John and his mother, again proving the benefit of our Kiwanis Family.
MAX PELL
Kiwanis in Victoria lost a real stalwart on Thursday November 12 with the passing of John Maxwell Pell. Better known as Max, Mr Pell had turned 80, just three months ago.
Advancing years prompted Max to regretfully backpedal from his long-term involvement in Kiwanis, where he was a Life Member, a Hixson Fellow, had been awarded his Legion of Honour, and was Lt Governor Division 7 (1998-1999). He had also been Distinguished President and Distinguished Secretary three times.
Max was a founding member of Mooroopna Kiwanis in November 1978, after which he helped start up McLennan Club, which on May 20 this year held its 500th meeting. He was heavily involved in Kiwanis through McLennan Club right up to a month or so ago, being immediate Past President. His lengthy service also included seven years as Secretary.
The funeral was held on November 18, attended by a large turnout including several Kiwanians. Max’s wife Mary is a former McLennan Kiwanian and to her and the Pell family we extend our condolences.

KATH TURNER
From Western Australia, we record the recent passing of Kathleen “Kath” Turner. Kath had been a member of Victoria Park Kiwanis Club since 2003. She didn’t enjoy good health in recent years but maintained friendships and kept contact with her fellow Kiwanians. The funeral was held in Perth on Thursday October 23. Our thoughts are with the Turner family.

MICK COSTELLO
Even the sky had a cry on this sad occasion, the significance being that the rainfall on Friday October 16 was the first meaningful precipitation Adelaide had experienced for well over a month.
It was appropriate that the raingods joined many local Kiwanians (and others) in farewelling a stalwart of West Lakes-Grange Kiwanis Club - Mick Costello passed away a couple of days earlier after battling liver cancer, but he never lost that renowned sense of humour and the ability to make people smile.
A keen Kiwanian since the late 1990s, Mick had recently returned to Adelaide after being transferred out of town on work duties. Importantly, he was about to be installed as incoming President of West Lakes, and his loss will profoundly impact that Club’s future direction.
Michael Reginald Costello or “Mick” as he was best known, was born July 1948 and raised in the Port Adelaide area. In his mid-teens he left school and headed straight for the railways where he knew this was the vocation that really interested him. He worked for Australian National amongst other rail networks, and soon became a proficient, fully fledged engineer who drove various renowned trains such as The Ghan, and Indian-Pacific. On his world travels a visit to overseas railway stations was always on the agenda.
Mick combined a keen interest in full-size trains with a passion for model railways, making many friends via this network. He met long-time partner, train driver Carol Bayder through trains, and never once “ran off the rails”!
Their Pelham Street, Ethelton residence was quite well known at Christmas for the lights display and amongst Mick’s other claims to fame was being a driver for the Kiwanis Bus. A loyal supporter of West Lakes Kiwanis, this larger than life bloke was a really happy-go-lucky man, capable of lighting up anyone’s face.
He remained stoic in his battle after being diagnosed, and refused to let his situation get him down. One of the eulogy deliverers rounded it out well: “Time to hook off engineer Mick. You’ve got the green light to heaven.”
Amongst the hundreds at the funeral were the entire West Lakes Kiwanis Club, along with Past Governors Peter Zander OAM, Janine Keulen, Lt Gov Div 3 David McNabb, John Dowe, Cheryl Hessling, Kerry Gannon, David Matthews, Lindsay Curtis and Carl Bulau among many others.
Rest in peace Mick - Kiwanis will really miss you.
HAPPY NEW KIWANIS YEAR
TO ALL IN THE KIWANIS FAMILY
OF AUSTRALIA DISTRICT.

2015-2016 has started very well with the Chartering of a new Key Club in Adelaide. There are more details of that Charter night event elsewhere in the Australian Kiwanian. What really motivated me, and all in attendance, was the youthful, positive energy evident amongst these new Key Club members. They were surrounded by a plethora of support people, and some invited guests, like myself and Peter Zander OAM.

The positive energy in the room was an example to all Kiwanians. What can be achieved by remaining positive about ourselves and others was there on display for all. My vision for Australia District throughout this year is to encourage and celebrate such success.

We will grow Kiwanis in Australia, encouraging and valuing diversity, and strengthen our clubs. There are members who are working very hard to ensure the success of Clubs and the District. I encourage everyone to think positively about Kiwanis, and to ask yourself to do something over the coming year, to make Kiwanis in Australia better. I specifically focus here on Australia, because our Clubs should be the centre of our thinking first. We should see our Clubs as our top priority - then our NZ colleagues and our role with other neighbour members of ASPAC.

Building a Board of Trustees that is positive and proactive is vital. We now have just one vacancy remaining (Div. 1 L.G.). The Board has developed Strategic Action Plans to see us into the future. The Board encourages responsible, collaborative decision-making, and will work with Clubs, through the Lieutenant Governors to better Kiwanis. I see at least two years of positive growth ahead of us to maintain District status. The International Counsellor and I have a monthly Skype meeting and he is fully supporting the work that we do.

November last year I travelled to America for the purpose of attending Governor-Elect training in Indianapolis. While there, my cousin took me up to his son’s school in Chicago. It’s called "The School of Thought"). They provide a joyful, compassionate, intellectual learning community where progressive thinking is valued. The school encourages individuality in all students and celebration of each other’s successes. Diversity of ideas was prized. Community service projects were part of a rigorous programme.

The transfer of ideas to reality began with the strong belief in valuing ideas. Following a morning session of meditation for the whole school assembly, I asked a school leader why the symbol of this school of thought was a fire-breathing dragon, a Wyvern. She explained the determination and strength required to persist with some progressive thinking and to support each other was characteristic of a Wyvern. As such, it made for an appropriate school symbol. I would like to thank St Francis School of Thought and all their Wyverns for an inspirational tour.

I reckon Kiwanis Australia District will be even more exciting in the coming years and can attract a growing membership. We will continue to advance the wonderful work done by our Australian Clubs for the children of the world. We have a wonderful, dedicated membership.

At the national Convention in Melbourne in August, as I was giving my first Kiwanis address as Governor Designate, it was clear to me that sitting in the audience in front of me were many Wyverns of Kiwanis. I encourage everyone to have this strength over the coming years.

WILLIAM SKULLY (and Julie) - Governor Australia District 2015-2016

STAN’S THE MAN!

Earlier on in this edition of AK we found out more about what makes new International President Sue Petrisin tick, it’s worth also briefly updating on Kiwanis Executive Director Stan Soderstrom who now resides in Indianapolis, where Kiwanis HQ is based.

Stan originally hails from Amarillo Texas (remember the 1971 hit song by Tony Christie?)! and attended the University of Texas at Austin. Married to Misty, he serves on several boards including the Iodine Global Network, and currently belongs to the Kiwanis Club of North Indianapolis Evening.

On the current eliMInaTe donor register, he is listed having donated in the $25,000-$99,999 (Major Gift Donor) bracket. Stan’s favourite quote (from Peter Drucker) is “The best way to predict the future is to create it.”
The reason why I accepted this nomination is that I Believe in the Future of Kiwanis...

At the Indianapolis Convention International President designate Sue Petrisin spoke of what family meant to her and that Kiwanis is a family of which we are all members. As a family we work together towards our vision where Kiwanis will be a positive influence in communities worldwide. Families are very much about children, and our Kiwanis vision believes that one day all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive. I believe that we are a family and as a family will collectively overcome obstacles encountered in our daily efforts to deliver on our vision.

Kiwanis International has introduced an I Plan that sets goals and strategies for the four pillars that underline Kiwanis:

- Inspiration which emanates from our membership and community engagement;
- Impact when we deliver meaningful service, Image where we have a recognisable brand and Investment that gives us underlying financial viability.
- I am part of the I Plan and I believe that it is a foundation for success into the second century of Kiwanis.

Kiwanis Australia District has formulated our own Strategic Plan and our Terrific Kids Strategic Plan, about which we will have a workshop this afternoon. Strategic plans are where we establish a road map for future direction that contains signposts, milestones, actions and responsibilities. This structure ensures that we do not meander too far from our chosen path. I believe that establishing well thought-through plans that can pass from Board to Board is the most effective way to manage Kiwanis Australia District. Part of this strategic plan sets standards for the footprint that will be Kiwanis in the future. These I express as Yes statements:

- Yes, we do Fundraising and inject much needed material benefits to our community. We have demonstrated through eliMiNaTe that we can set individual, club and district targets, and work together as a family to achieve our goals.

Yes, we have Fun while doing this worthwhile service work, and

Yes, we enjoy Fellowship, and,

Yes, we create enduring Friendships and

Yes we expand our circle of Friends and knowledge base through structured club meetings and programs. Not surprisingly for those that know me, many of these are F Words. I believe in the power of the F words for conducting our daily activities even though there are some F words that should be expurgated from our lexicon, like Failure.

Fundamentally my belief is that firm planning, Kiwanis as a family and using F words will fortify our organisation. I really do believe in the future of Kiwanis.

Footnote: Tony was an exemplary ambassador for Australian Kiwanis at this year’s International Convention. He will serve this District well - Editor

“No place for that F word (Failure)”
Bowls Night back on track!

One of the long-standing inter-Divisional fixtures involving Divisions 3, 8 and 10 - the annual Kiwanis Bowls Tournament - has not been run over the past couple of years, for a variety of reasons.

However, a new venue and different day of the week seemed to resonate this year with many keen Kiwanians. Between four and five dozen players and supporters arrived at the Somerton Bowling Club on Friday November 6, ready and raring to resurrect this time-honoured event. There were even some past Governors on hand (Geoff Holmes, Janine Keulen and Peter Zander OAM - the latter being amongst the organisers).

Chrissie Hibbert and her team from Brighton Club did a mighty job of putting this show together. Kiwanis Clubs that attended included Rostrevor-Campbelltown, Glenelg, Prospect, Barossa, Reedbeds, Athelstone, Brighton, with a couple of Clubs entering two teams. One of the surprise packets was current Governor Bill Skully who “skipped” his team to victory with some amazing last gasp shots.

There were the usual raffle prizes drawn later in the evening (thanks to Hesslings for helping with this) and a lovely hot supper. The coveted Lionel Whalan Trophy was won by Barossa Club, and as they were the previous winners, Barossa retain polishing rights for another year!

Not that we’re “biassed” (pun intended. . . .) but this Bowls Event was judged a sufficient success that the consensus was to hold another one next year. Jump on board!
Winners are Grinners!

Above: Victorious Barossa Kiwanis team (L to R): Bob Nitschke, Dennis Noack, Des Schiller, Sandy Blythman with their trophy. Left: Runnerup was Rostrevor-Campbeltown Club, while below is third placed Brighton Club. As the first two teams placed are from Division 10, that means the inter Divisional Ken Farmer Shield for 2015 went to (yes) Division 10.

“No shame in finishing first. At the wrong end!”
(Hey, at least they joined in the fun!)
Keeping up to date with worldwide totals raised through Kiwanis and UNICEF partnership for eliMiNaTe, is best done by watching our website, as the totals are changing constantly. Worldwide, we’re edging closer to that target total.

Top Six Districts by US$ pledged:
1. Taiwan $7,000,000
2. Texas-Oklahoma $5,000,000
3. Florida $4,220,526
4. California-Nevada-Hawaii $4,094,660
5. Illinois-East Iowa $3,800,000
6. Georgia $3,799,250

Current top 5 Districts for Model & 100K Clubs:
1. Texas-Oklahoma 68
2. California-Nevada-Hawaii 66
3. Florida 62
4. Illinois-East Iowa 50
5= Taiwan 46
5= Missouri-Arkansas 46

It’s pleasing to report that in recent months the list of nations declared MNT-free has expanded to include Cambodia, and yes, India. That’s no mean feat in a nation with such a huge population.

DONOR LEGACY BOOK

Through Kiwanis International, the decision was made to publish and distribute a large Donor Legacy Book, listing donation details as at June 1, 2015. These books were distributed to the various Divisions at Melbourne’s District Convention in August.

All Club donors and major individual donors are listed, with a special mention of the Best Club Effort going to Malaysia’s first Club - Kuala Lumpur. After this Club decided on moving to Model Club status in 2011, ten past Club Presidents chipped in with $1250 each which inspired the 57-member Club to bigger things. To June, this Malaysian Club has donated over US$444,000 which is the largest Club total in the world. Well done to them.

Australia District scores a full page guernsey, and mentions the following, in categories of amount donated (bear in mind, the list is slightly “behind”, having been compiled in June):

US$2500-$5000: Joan Hammonds, Peter Kimberley, Karen McLennan
US$1000-$2499: Barry Fary, Frank Fotiades, Steve Hughes, Noel Land, Sue Kimberley, Paul Ledger, Norm McLennan, Jim Rae, George Wells, Andrew Swanson
DIAMOND CLUB: Waverley*
PLATINUM CLUB: Sydney
GOLD CLUBS: Berwick, Melbourne, West Lakes-Grange
MODEL CLUBS: Adelaide, Athelstone, Brisbane, Casuarina, Deniliquin, Doncaster-Templestowe, East Maitland, Geelong, Glenelg, Karrinyup, Mitcham, Moorabbin, Newcastle, Palmerston & Rural, Port Phillip, Reedbeds, Tea Tree Gully
SILVER CLUB: Brighton (SA or Vic? !)
BRONZE CLUB: Australia Online, Gawler, Prospect

*100K Club

Current Top Ten Districts by per member average:
1. West Canada $936
2. Japan $728
3. Australia $624
4. Malaysia $618
5. New Jersey $573
6. Georgia $532
7. Nebraska-Iowa $527
8. Taiwan $511
9. Netherlands $507
10. Texas-Oklahoma $501
MICHAEL FLAVELL reports on recent community work undertaken by Banksia Park High School Key Club members

A large bushfire swept through the Sampsons Flat area of South Australia (on Adelaide’s far northern outskirts) in early January, nearly 12 months ago.

Many community volunteers assisted the CFS units and property owners at that time but as the year has moved on, the help has lessened. Our Kiwanis Key Club at Banksia Park International High School to the rescue!! These young students demonstrated a commitment to the local community on Wednesday, October 28 when they joined with Ashley Fowler (BPIHS Deputy Principal) and seven Kiwanians from the Tea Tree Gully Kiwanis Club to help restore a property at Kersbrook where the house and adjoining sheds were burnt to the ground.

It was hard work but the Key Clubbers managed to outstay the ageing Kiwanians! Notwithstanding, there still is much to do in the Sampsons Flat area.

Incidentally, in June, 2015, this Key Club with the support of the staff and students managed to raise $7,500 for the Leukaemia Foundation. Another worthwhile project added to a long list of achievements for this Club since chartering 12 years ago.
Kiwanis is certainly active in the South Pacific, especially our near neighbours in Vanuatu. They made headlines on Friday March 13 this year when Cyclone Pam struck the region. Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation helped the disaster relief effort with a grant of nearly A$24,000.

The news article reprinted here, reports on how Vanuatu holds an annual Kiwanis Charity Race Week, with the highlight being the Kiwanis Charity Race Day. This amazing sounding event is a horse race which began back in the mid-1980s. Kiwanis scores a huge guernsey throughout the entire week of activities, starting with the Kiwanis Race Ball, where tickets can be bought for just 11,000vt.* That’s on Thursday, followed on Friday night by the Calcutta where you can “draw a winner”, leading up to the big horse race on Saturday.

This article appeared in the local Vanuatu Life&Style magazine and centres on an interview with a main organiser, Cassie Phelan (pictured). Due to space restraints, we’ve only shown half the interview here, but you get the idea: Kiwanis has a BIG profile in Vanuatu. Well done to those keen Kiwanians.

Footnote: It’s worth relating here that recently Adelaide’s Lindsay Curtis has spoken with a past Kiwanis Vanuatu member (now living in Adelaide), Peter Biber. Peter is the new CEO of Grandparents for Grandchildren and as he lives in city central, had been hoping to rejoin Kiwanis as a member of Adelaide Club. That Club is now in recess, so Lindsay has suggested he joins him in attending Mitcham Kiwanis Club.

(*Vanuatan currency; 11K vt = A$134)
THE FORMULA FOR GROWTH DOES WORK

And if implemented sensibly can make inroads in Australia into one of our goals - increasing membership. As an example, during 2014/15, by applying the campaign's principles, these Clubs in USA District were able to charter the following healthy number of new Clubs:

Illinois - East Iowa ............................ 14 new Clubs
California / Nevada / Hawaiii    ............. 12
Andean / Central America  ................. 11
East Canada / Caribbean ................. 10

GROWTH PROMOTION - Sponsor a new Kiwanian
and WIN !!!

THE FORMULA is a multi-year initiative to strengthen Kiwanis membership in existing Clubs and expand the reach of Kiwanis to communities that do not yet have the benefit of a Kiwanis Club. The initiative is based on the sensible premise that when members have an exceptional Kiwanis experience, they want to share Kiwanis. When members share Kiwanis with others, the Clubs become stronger, new Clubs open and communities benefit from strong, better Kiwanis service. Stated simply: Love It, Share It, Live It.

Our target is to build Kiwanis Australia to 1200 members by September 2016. From October 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015 we have introduced 176 people in Australia to the fun and fellowship that Kiwanis offers, while serving the children of the world. (This has been offset by the loss of 112 members either through passing away or resigning.)

To encourage members to invite and sponsor new members, Kiwanis Australia are continuing to promote recruitment by offering this special Prize Draw.

Members who sponsor a new member to Kiwanis in Australia between April 25, 2015 and the 2016 District Convention will take part in a draw for a grand prize, subject to the conditions outlined below.

1st PRIZE is registration, travel and part accommodation to 2017 KI International Convention which will be held in the capital of France. This will be for the sponsor member and partner to a maximum value of $A5,000.

Why not share the great work and fellowship with others. New members will bring new ideas and also give Kiwanis more resources to better meet the community's service needs. Each sponsor will be automatically included in the draw to be conducted by the 2017-18 District Governor Designate.

CONDITIONS: New Member means not already a member of another Club, or a transfer. Prizes are non-transferrable, non-redeemable for cash and are for two persons sharing accommodation only. Member Sponsors and the New Member must be financial members of KI and KIAD at December 31, 2016. This means all fees must be received and bank cleared at KAD. Member Sponsors who sponsor multiple new members will be entered in the draw multiple times, increasing the chance to win.

KAD Board reserves the right to amend the prize and conditions if circumstances change and minimum net gains are not met.

PARIS PROMOTION

On behalf of the District Board we extend Season’s Greetings to all Kiwanis members, their families, and friends of Kiwanis. Have a wonderful Festive Season.

AUSTRALIAN KIWANIAN - DECEMBER 2015
CANDLEBARK FARM FAMILY CAMP

A camp weekend was held at Candlebark Farm, Healesville, Victoria during the spring school holidays, where 15 HeartKids families enjoyed two full days together.

Thanks were offered to Kiwanis Division 6 clubs along with SafeonSite who kindly sponsored the camp, and to the Kiwanis HeartKids committee and volunteers who worked together, coordinating the weekend. This camp provided a chance for the families to have an enjoyable weekend away where they could relax in a lovely rural environment, enjoy time with their family and also share experiences with other families who understand what life is like with a HeartKid.

Particular thanks were extended to Kiwanis Clubs in Division 6, SafeOnSite, along with Healesville Police, Victoria SES Healesville Unit, Healesville Ambulance Service amongst many others. These photos depict some of the enjoyable activities undertaken during this great weekend of helping HeartKids and their families.

FOOTNOTE: The Candlebark name caught the attention of Australian media mid-November, regarding that unspeakable mindless violence unleashed in France’s capital on Friday 13th. Several schoolchildren from Victoria were walking directly through the affected areas just an hour before chaos erupted, but it seems they were from nearby Candlebark School, not the above Candlebark Camp. Either way, it was a close call!
I HEREBY PLEDGE . . .

In Australia, and worldwide, partly due to TERRIFIC KIDS (junior Primary upwards) being the recipient of Awards but not really being active Kiwanians as such, they don't have an official pledge. That's not the case for K-Kids who “kick in” at Primary School level and would be considered the lead-up to Key Club Kiwanians. Their slogan is Young Leaders Helping Others, and their Pledge reads: “As a K-Kid I promise to serve my neighbourhood and my school. I will show respect toward my environment and I will try to make the world a better place to live.” Shepparton’s amongst the regions to have active K-Kids.

Returning to Terrific Kids, this is a student recognition program which promotes character development, self-esteem and perseverance - all admirable attributes worth encouraging. Some Kiwanians may not be aware that TERRIFIC is an acronym for Thoughtful Enthusiastic Respectful Responsible Inclusive Friendly Inquitive & Capable.

SLP - Service Leadership Programme, takes in that exceptionally worthwhile venture involving Aktion Clubbers. There have been several Aktion Clubs around Australia over the ages, including Dandenong and Mt Gambier. Currently there are around half a dozen Aktion Clubs in South Australia and there's also an Aktion Club in Newcastle.

Aktion Kiwanians certainly make a statement which is: “We pledge to be loyal members of our Aktion Club, to form new friendships and also to serve our community.”

In Australia, currently there doesn't appear to be an active Kiwanis Builders Club (these promote the building of leaders at college), but we do have several Key Clubs, catering for high school students (see featured front page item for this AK) who can be encouraged in adult life to join a mainstream Kiwanis Club - this especially applies in USA and was evident at this year's International Convention where a large number of Key Club Kiwanians were in attendance.

Again, Adelaide seems at the fore with Key Clubs, and apart from the Glenunga High School Club (in recess), there are Key Clubs at Banksia Park H.S (Div 10), Roma Mitchell College (Div 3), and these have now been joined by Brighton H.S. (Div 8). There are other international derivatives as well (not present in Australia) such as Circle Club International, where the CKI motto is: Fellowship that Lasts”. Their meetings are often held via webinars (similar to Skype). BUGs is another area, again not prominent in this country, and the acronym stands for Building Up Grades.

K Corps is another Kiwanis International venture, being a global community service exchange programme, which offers a homestay experience between North America and Europe. This involves youth being able to sample intercultural skills via Kiwanis activities: meetings, fellowship, fundraising and service projects.

Key Club International's oath reads as follows: “I pledge on my honour to uphold the Objects of Key Club International, to build my home, school and community, to serve my nation and God's and combat all forces which tend to undermine these institutions”.

Which leads us to “renew our vows” with the Objects of Kiwanis, which have appeared on back page of Australian Kiwanian over recent issues. The full version reads:

To give priority to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.
To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
To promote the adoption and application of higher social, business and professional standards.
To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.
To provide, though Kiwanis Clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.
To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.

[Incidentally, the only people that AK Editor has heard being able to recite the full Objects by memory - in front of District Convention audiences - are past Governors Peter “The Guru” Kimberley, and also J anine Keulen - well done to these two!]

And now, here's a recently introduced shorter rendition of our Objects - this version reads:

To give importance to the human and spiritual rather than the material values of life.
To encourage living by the Golden Rule.
To promote higher social, business and professional standards.
To encourage and be servant leaders.
To build Kiwanis Clubs that build lasting friendships and serve and strengthen local communities.
To promote justice, patriotism and goodwill.

It would be interesting to hear your thoughts on the above, especially as to whether the condensed Objects should be used more often than seems to be the case. The more traditional, full-worded version probably appears to be The Objects that the majority of Kiwanians in Australia are used to hearing.
A priest had just finished a round of golf with a much better opponent who delighted in telling everyone in the clubhouse how badly this man of the cloth had played. Even so, he invited the cleric to bring a couple of friends next time to play another round.

“Unfortunately my friends won’t be available,” the priest said, “but if you’d like to invite your parents, I could marry them for you after the game.”

A tour bus operator is driving a bus full of seniors down the highway when he is tapped on the shoulder by a little old lady. This passenger offers him a handful of peanuts which he gratefully munches. About a quarter of an hour later she taps the driver on the shoulder again and hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this gesture several times.

After the ninth time he asks the old lady why she doesn’t eat the peanuts herself, and she replies that it is not possible and because of her dentures she is unable to chew them. “Why do you buy them then?” asks the puzzled driver. Whereupon the lady of senior years replies, “I just love the chocolate around them!”

Harry, Dick and Tom were discussing their earliest recollections of life. Harry said boldly, “I can recollect my first day in Play School.”

“Not bad,” said Dick, “but I can recall the doctor spanking my bottom to make me cry just after I was born!”

“That’s nothing,” offered Tom. “I can remember going to the drive-in with my Dad. And coming home with my mother!!”

It hardly needed vindicating, but with this issue accentuating Key Clubs in Australia, it’s quite pertinent that we update you on some past notable Kiwanis Key Club members (mainly from the USA) who have gone on to attain worldwide recognition. Did you know that the following well-known people started off as Key Club Kiwanians?!

Past USA President Bill Clinton (member of Key Club in Missouri-Arkansas); Tom Cruise; Ricki Lake (TV talk show hostess); Joe Namath (US football player); Bill Nelson (Key Club International President 1959-60, US Senator & astronaut); Brad Pitt; Elvis Presley; Howard Stern (radio DJ); Sue Petrisin (joined 1977, now our International President!). So there you go!!

No one would dispute that it’s always great to see past Governors keeping in touch with our organisation, even if some might become sidetracked by other interests, or whatever.

It was encouraging at this year’s District Convention in Melbourne for us to have the 2003-2004 Governor Kevin Wood and Ann (left) attend the Saturday evening Dinner function. In fact Kevin was one of several past Governors joining in that weekend.