The Kiwanis year started on the 1st of October with the Australia District having 44 clubs with a total membership of 802 and at the start of January our membership remains at 802. It is now time for us all to activate the challenge of Club and Membership Growth that was outlined to Lieutenant Governors at our November Board meeting, when they were asked to involve all clubs and all members in a process that can change current trends in membership.

Well done to the Barossa Club with an increase of 4 new members and I hear that Sydney are about to join 4 members as well.

If most of our 40 plus Kiwanis Clubs managed an average of 4 new members per club, we would be getting close to our target of 1000 members. It is also pleasing to hear that most Clubs have been developing an I Plan for their clubs and setting goals, and finding it a beneficial process.

Many thanks to Waverley Kiwanis Club for stepping up and helping the new Cranbourne Secondary College Key Club. It is pleasing to hear that Kiwanis Clubs have been increasing the number of Terrific Kids Schools and I would encourage members to look for these opportunities to build SLP Clubs.

We have been able to reinvigorate badly needed Member education and training for current and incoming Club Officers, and with a further upcoming education opportunity at the Division 2 Mini Convention it will mean that more than 10% of our members have benefitted from these sessions.

Many thanks to Jan Hyde our Leadership and Development Chair, who is also to be congratulated for her appointment to a position on the Kiwanis International Leadership Advisory Task Force, which certainly is an acknowledgement of her dedicated and hard work in the name of Kiwanis.

In November we applied for an ASPAC District Matching Grant for the purpose of growth, marketing and education within the Australia District. I am pleased to report that we have been allocated an amount of US$3,000 which we have to match from the Australian District for, Growth in Sydney, Mildura and Adelaide; and Education for Division 2 and Lt. Governor training in Adelaide in May 2020. Reimbursements occur after the granted activities have happened and after itemized receipts have been received.

The Good news is the District is we are welcoming a very energetic Public Relations Coordinator Emma Hale who will be helping us with Increasing our Public image and exposure.

Further good news is that The Kiwanis Club of The Adelaide Hills are sponsoring the Annual Kiwanis Australia District Convention to be held at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, 145A Mount Barker Road Hahndorf, from the 27th to the 30th of August 2020, with registration details already on the Kiwanis Web site.
As a result of the devastating bushfires all around Australia, we launched our **Kiwanis Bushfire Relief Appeal** on the 5th of January in support of **UNICEF** Australia, through the Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation. (Thankyou Bryan Williams for his expertise and work in getting the Appeal up and running)

The priority with **UNICEF** is to focus on the recovery and rehabilitation phases particularly in support of children impacted by this disaster.

It has been very heartening to have received so many messages of support, not only from around Australia, but also from our Kiwanis family all around the world.

The following message received from Tony Stuart, CEO UNICEF Australia;

“Kiwanis have been an incredible supporter of UNICEF’s work with Children for over 25 years. To learn that their Australian members are coming together to raise funds for our bushfire response work is tremendously gratifying. Every dollar raised will help children and their families affected by the bushfire crisis to return to a normal life as quickly as possible. I would like to thank the Kiwanis clubs across Australia for their continuous support of UNICEF Australia. I would also like to extend my sincere condolences to those members that were directly affected by this devastating crisis”.

A strategic goal for this year was to encourage Clubs to Support & Promote the Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation (KADCF).

Now that we have successfully achieved our Australian targets for the Eliminate Program, Clubs are being encouraged to make use of the District Recognition awards through the (KADCF).

It is pleasing to see Clubs continuing to support, Heart Kids, The Children First Foundation and the Childhood Cancer Association's Research into Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. (ALL), which is the biggest cause of non-traumatic death of children under 18 years of age.

The Kiwanis Australia District Executive members have been very busy, during what is normally a holiday period, and I would like to thank them for the extra effort and time expended. My particular thanks to our District Secretary Peter Zander who seems to never stop and is always there when needed.

I have been able to visit a number of Clubs around the Australia District and have been impressed with the enthusiasm and scope of projects, fundraising and events aimed at supporting children.

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

Ashleigh Gore
Governor