We are living in difficult times and the Kiwanis world as we know it has changed as a result of the corona virus and the limitations placed on us all.

I am however pleased to report that Kiwanians around Australia are continuing to help and make a difference where they are able, and even recruiting several new members despite the lockdown.

At the start of January our Kiwanis membership was 802 and now currently is at 800 as the result of the passing of several long serving Kiwanians, including our loveable Past Governor William ‘Bill’ Craig.

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, who is focusing on the recovery and rehabilitation phases particularly in support of children impacted by this disaster. It is extremely pleasing to hear that the Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation received donations from overseas and around Australia, with the total now approaching $60,000, which includes $30,377 from the Japan District and $10,000 from the Geelong Kiwanis Club.

A total of 18 Australian Kiwanis Members and partners attended the ASPAC Convention in Kathmandu, Nepal in the beginning of March. A well run Convention by the new Kiwanis Nepalese District which is growing rapidly and making a real impact in their country by supporting and developing programs to improve the lives of children and families in their community. The Convention saw the election of ASPAC Trustees positions go to Willy Aguilar from the Philippines and Buheita Fujiwara from Japan. Buheita has now been appointed as K.I. Board Counselor for our Kiwanis Australian District.

Unfortunately as a result of the Covid-19 Global Pandemic and in the interest of the health and safety of Kiwanis Members, the Annual Kiwanis Australia District Convention that was to be held at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf, in August 2020 will have to be cancelled with a resolution to that effect to be passed at the Board meeting.

While current restrictions on travel and social distancing requirements are in place, it has been pleasing to hear how Kiwanis Clubs are keeping in contact by telephonic or electronic means.

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

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

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

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