



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Certainly, I saw quite a few Facebook posts confirming a lot of Christmas fun with family and friends. My bathroom scales have confirmed I had a very merry Christmas!

As expected, November and especially December were super busy. A big thank you to everyone for all the work, effort, and sweat that went into all the projects. Thinking about the Christmas related projects such as Community Christmas Carols and the Brisbane Basket Brigade we can rest well knowing that in some way we have helped brighten a child's or family's Christmas.

Community Christmas Carols enjoyed a significant increase in attendance this year, in fact I haven't seen so many people attend in the past. Amazing what can happen when everything lines up, such as milder weather. The increased attendances really created quite a buzz and atmosphere. I can't quite work out exactly how many years we have been involved with the Salvation Army and Community Christmas Carols but it is now a key relationship that we enjoy, and having spoken to the organisers, they enjoy as well.

All of our local elected representatives held Christmas celebrations to which we were invited. The invitation is a recognition of our work in the community and provides a great opportunity to meet like-minded people.

Lovely to spend time with everyone at our own Christmas celebration. The venue and food were great, and more importantly so was the company. Always a pleasure and a nice way to finish the year in fellowship with good friends.

The new year is on us. January starts with a social gathering on the 18<sup>th</sup> (perfect start to the year).

Our first meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and I look forward to seeing you all there. **Love It. Share It. Live It.**

Ruthven

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### Committee for 2019/2020:

<b>President:</b>	Ruthven Underhill
<b>Vice President:</b>	Ray Behn
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kelli Schuh
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sharon Baldwinson
<b>Directors:</b>	Jennifer Sorrenson Trish Madsen Marie Simpson
<b>Projects Team Leader:</b>	Ann Earle
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Trish Madsen
<b>Guest speaker Coordinator:</b>	Ray Behn

## CONTACT US

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## **A message from our Governor:**

"Greetings for this new 2020 year.

Firstly, a big thank-you for your great hospitality when I managed to get up to Brisbane last year for your Handover Dinner. It was refreshing to hear of all the community work and projects that you have been involved in. A real highlight was your two new members joining that night.

We are continuing to look for opportunities to grow Kiwanis in Australia, with two new young Kiwanis Clubs being formed in our last year, who are already having a real impact in their communities. However, many of us joined when we were in or around our 40's and with 25 to 35 plus years having passed since then, it is imperative for us all to look at building new and younger clubs. The best suggestion for building a new club is to, look for a need in a community and develop a project in that area.

The disastrous bushfires around Australia are of extreme concern to us all and you would be aware of the massive impact it has had on many communities: We have activated a bushfire appeal through the Kiwanis Australia District Foundation. We have received many personal messages indicating information about the bush fires is being spread world-wide amongst Kiwanians and their friends with much concern, and that private and overseas club donations will be directed to the KADCF for the Bushfire Disaster Relief.

Roslyn and I look forward to catching up with many of you at the Division 2 Mini convention at Tea Gardens NSW in February. There will be a great education presentation from our Leadership and Development Chair and Past Governor Jan Hyde that everyone can attend.

I would like to extend an invitation to you all to consider joining us for our 2020 District Convention being held in Hahndorf S.A. It is shaping up to be one of the best yet, affordable, with all types of accommodation on site at the 3 times award winning Hahndorf Convention Centre. (I am a little biased being in my home town!)

See the promo on the Kiwanis Australian District Web site. We are working on a possible theme, maybe 2020 vision, so you won't need glasses!

Please keep safe; Kind Regards."

***Ashleigh Gore***

**Governor Australia District 2019-2020 - Kiwanis International**

***A YEAR FOR ACTION NOT JUST WORDS***

December 2019:

**Brett and Carolyn Swann, MD's of Empowered Futures**



The December meeting was addressed by Brett and Carolyn Swann of Empowered Futures. Brett & Carolyn have combined their professional experience with their own personal journey of caring for their daughter Lucy to establish Empowered Futures.

The organisation is committed to finding a better way of delivering disability services. They are committed to travelling with families to find creative solutions to everyday struggles and empowering families to triumph over the 'disability system'.

They provide emotional support to families of children with profound intellectual and physical disabilities and assist the families to navigate the disability sector. They currently assist 20 families with children aged between 13-37 years. They have 41 carers to assist clients by working in the family home, helping them move into independent living (with assistance) and to access the wider community.

Empowered Futures has two community hubs, located in Jindalee and Bundamba which offer centre based day support and have established houses at Goodna, Forrest Lake, Chapel Hill, Booval and Yamanto.

If anyone has any ideas or contacts for  
Guest Speakers, please contact Ray  
Behn, [ray.behn@gmail.com](mailto:ray.behn@gmail.com)



## Kiwanis Christmas Dinner

December 17th saw Kiwanis Club celebrate 2019, Christmas and the upcoming exciting 2020 at Richlands Lion's Club. The evening was extremely well attended, and the photos suggest it was well enjoyed by all.





## Kiwanis Other Christmas Functions

**Christmas Parties:** Kiwanis was invited to attend the Christmas Parties of our local Councillor, Matthew Bourke (Dec 10<sup>th</sup>), and the combined party of federal member, Milton Dick and State Government representative, Jess Pugh. The invites were a worthy recognition of the excellent contribution Kiwanis makes to the local community.



### Community Christmas Carols

The Salvation Army Centenary Community Carols commenced over 15 years ago with a small concert in a school hall with the idea of bringing our local community together for an evening of Christmas Carols. As the years passed, the event grew to where it is today with a live nativity scene, fireworks and around 3000 people attending every year joining together to celebrate Christmas joy. The Carols were held on Sunday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at Peter Lightfoot oval and the Kiwanis team ran the BBQ, ably lead by Graham Simpson. By all accounts the event was highly successful and the BBQ sold out by 7 pm. Special thanks to the 2 youngsters Chloe and Brady Schuh.





## Kiwanis Brisbane Basket Brigade

Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> saw Kiwanis once again help at Brisbane Basket Brigade's Packing Day. The Basket Brigade is a non-profit organisation that provides food and gifts for people that need a hand - children, the elderly, hungry & homeless - during the Christmas season each year. Kiwanis made sure the team of volunteers was well nourished, providing a sizzling BBQ manned by Kiwanis BBQing experts!





## Bunnings BBQ

The November 25<sup>th</sup> BBQ went well (net profit of \$648) whilst the December BBQ benefitted from being held 2 days before Christmas.

Marie reports that the December BBQ was highly successful with 40 kg of sausages sold. Special thanks go to 12 year old Chloe Schuh for helping to keep the drinks & bread up to the workers. Also, thanks must go to the Friends of Kiwanis who helped on the day, including Ross and Lavinia Donaldson, Gill Bell, Mike Winters (Kelli's dad) and Jeff Sangster.

Gross takings for the December BBQ were \$1588 which should give a nett profit of approximately \$1240 – according to Marie, that's better than 2 regular Mondays!



## A Touch of Compassion

A team of Kiwanis members were privileged to assist with serving an evening meal to the Community at Ellen Grove in November. A Touch of Compassion organisers Chris and Angela have a vision to see united communities coming together in support of one another, for the wellbeing of every individual. For families to receive care, be valued, be encouraged, loved and receive necessary help and support to create a healthy, loving, empowered, prosperous and thriving community.

Chris and Angela, provide meals on Monday nights from produce sourced from Foodbank and other community service providers in addition to boxes of groceries, clothing, blankets etc. With the assistance of volunteers, they provide so much more to the community than just a meal.



## Movies in the Park



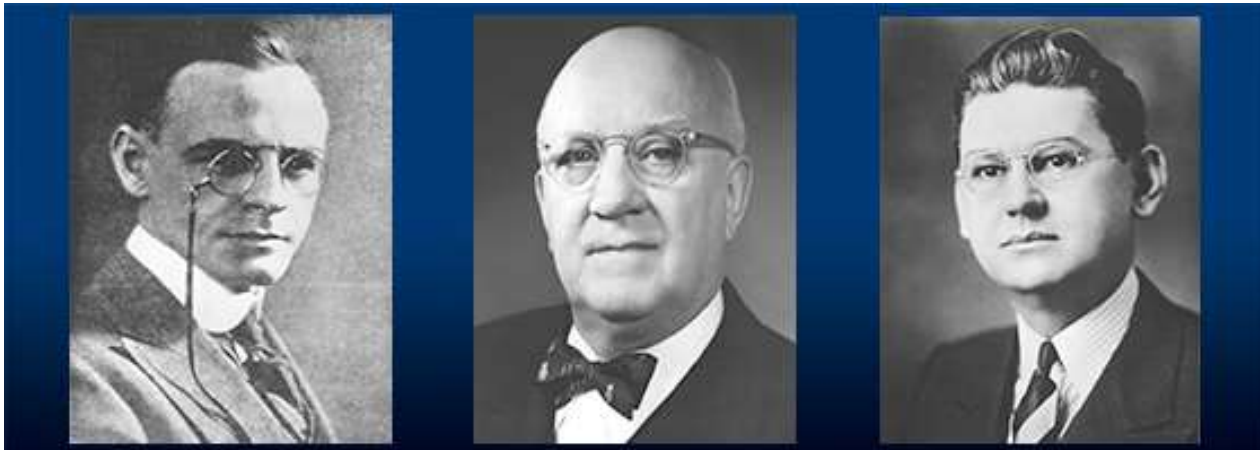
A further update on October's Movies in the Park. Sharon reports that the event grossed \$889.45 (exclusive of Grant income/expenses). This included the float of \$335, making a net profit of \$554.45.

Kiwanis had planned on donating some of the proceeds of the day to Loud Shirt Day – a day organized to raise money to help give the gift of sound and speech to deaf children. The Committee then agreed that all proceeds (\$550) would be directed to Hear and Say for Loud Shirt Day.

Pat reports that we received a certificate of appreciation for our participation and donation for loud shirt day.



## Some Club History



"Lowering clouds drifted darkly over the streets of Detroit that December morning. A thin mist, blowing in from across Lake Erie, filled the air with a cold dampness that streaked the panes of the store windows, many of which already were gay with ribbons and tinsel heralding the approach of Christmas."

That's the way O. Sam Cummings (above, centre) described conditions on December 7, 1914, when Allen Simpson Browne walked through the door of Joseph Prance's tailor shop and launched a movement that exists today as Kiwanis. Cummings, who was the organization's first employee — 1918-21 Kiwanis International secretary — wrote but never published a history of the organization in 1952.

A bound copy of his typewritten pages has been discovered, and its pages reveal some interesting details about Kiwanis and the people who found it.

1: Kiwanis was founded by a couple young men. Both organizer Browne (left) and first member Prance (right) were in their 30s on that momentous day.

2: It's well known that the organization began with the name Benevolent Order Brothers — or BOB — and that some founders did not care to be called Bobs. A new name, Kiwanis, was unanimously accepted, but members were uncertain about how to call themselves. "Kee-wah-ni-ser" and "Kai-wan-is-ser" were suggested. In May 1917, Kiwanis International President George F. Hixson settled the debate, proclaiming, "Kee-wah nee an" as the correct pronunciation of Kiwanian.

3: First club president Donald Johnston realized the importance of social activities to promote fellowship and camaraderie. The insurance salesman organized square dances, at which he acted as the caller and shouted himself hoarse on more than one occasion.

4. Kiwanis' second club, Cleveland, Ohio, soon developed a keen interest in a hospital for patients suffering from spinal problems, especially bedridden children. The Kiwanians sent to England for a woman experienced in teaching such children and raised funds to establish a training school for young women interested in taking up that kind of service.



## Clothes Call

Five years ago, Rick Kidwell — a retired educator and longtime member of the Findlay Kiwanis Club in Ohio — learned about a troubling trend in area elementary schools. Teachers were shopping garage sales, gathering hand-me-downs and purchasing new clothes — not for themselves, but to stock classroom emergency drawers for children in need.

Kidwell shared his concern with then club president Anne Stapley, suggesting that members create a kids' clothes closet in one or two of Findlay's schools with the greatest demand.

"I interrupted to say, 'If we do this, we will put one in every single elementary school in the entire county,'" says Stapley. "As tears filled in this amazing and generous man's eyes, I knew we could make this one of the best projects our club has ever seen."

The club dubbed the project Kiwanis Closets. Kidwell found a good deal on cabinetry, and as kits were shipped, he worked with other club members to assemble the closets and deliver them to county schools. The Kiwanians also sought feedback from teachers, principals, school nurses and office secretaries to determine which articles of clothing were most needed.



"It was sad for us to learn that children were not only having accidents at school with limited choices for them to change into, but some children were coming to school in the dead of winter without socks or underwear," Stapley recalls. "Some children shared that those items were too expensive. At first, I thought we'd be replacing or providing hats or mittens to a child who forgot or lost theirs, but it turns out the need is much deeper."

Today, club members keep 18 Kiwanis Closets stocked with socks, underwear, sweatpants, sweatshirts, T-shirts, shorts, leggings, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and belts — all new with tags still attached for easy sizing and storage. When items run low, school staff email the club, and members refill the supplies within days. Club members raise monies through fundraisers and personal donations, and volunteers purchase, stock, deliver and maintain all items.

"The Kiwanis Closet is open to any child in need for any reason," Stapley stresses. "Our club's dream is to have this project adopted by every Kiwanis club in the Ohio District and eventually worldwide."

# What's Coming Up



<b>January</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 🎁 Sharon	4 🎁 Ivan
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18 2020 Get Together John Magee Park 3pm
	19	20	21 Dinner Meeting	22	23	24	25
	26	27 Bunnings BBQ	28	29	30	31	1

<b>February</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							1
	2	3	4 Dinner Meeting	5	6 MGM Ray's Place	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17 🎁 Stephen	18 Dinner Meeting	19 🎁 Kerry	20 Tea Gardens	21 Tea Gardens	22 Tea Gardens
	23 Tea Gardens	24 Bunnings BBQ	25	26	27	28	29



**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2020**  
**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January**

<b>March</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Dinner Meeting 🎁 Ann	4	5 MGM	6	7 🎁 Dianne
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17 Dinner Meeting	18	19	20	21
	22	23 Bunnings BBQ	24	25 Kerry	26	27	28
	29 🎁 Gill	30	31				



## Brisbane Club Achievements

For the year ending December 2019, the Brisbane Kiwanis Club Members have volunteered 2,491 hours and raised \$22,310.

During the last 2 months, we have financial donations as follows:

- ❖ Hear and Say    \$550
- ❖ Salvation Army Christmas Carols    \$500

Causes the Brisbane Club Supports	2018/2019
<b>4074 Community and Beyond</b> - local community run group holding events to benefit charitable organisations.	✓
<b>A Touch of Compassion</b> – Provides meals and groceries for families in the Community in need.	✓
<b>Brisbane Basket Brigade</b> – providing food and gift packages at Christmas time to disadvantaged families	✓
<b>Care Kids for Kids Queensland</b> - distributing Care Kits for children in crisis or care, from new or handcrafted donations by various sewing and craft groups and the general public.	✓
<b>DanDaLions</b> - seek to nurture the inclusive mindset in future generations and redefine the value of those with 'diffability' in our community	✓
<b>Eliminate</b> – Kiwanis / UNIEF Program to stop newborns and mothers dying from tetanus	✓
<b>Good News BookFest</b> - supporting a local primary school to raise funds for the P&C to assist providing additional learning opportunities for students.	✓
<b>Heartkids Australia</b> - research into Children's heart disease	✓
<b>Heartkids Queensland</b> – supporting families with children affected by heart disease	✓
<b>Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation</b> – provides grant funding for projects, initiatives and programs focussed on improving community health and wellbeing for those most in need and for improved life outcomes for the disadvantaged.	✓
<b>Kiwanis Childrens Fund</b> – various worldwide projects	✓
<b>McIntyre Centre</b> - equestrian programs for people with a disability for the purpose of education, enjoyment, recreation, sport, and therapy.	✓
<b>MD Queensland</b> -dedicated to people who live with muscular dystrophy and similar conditions and their families, throughout all of their lives.	✓
<b>Miles Community</b> – assistance to drought affected families in conjunction with QCWA through provision of essential school resources.	✓
<b>Miraa House</b> - a learning life skills centre for women aged 17 and over with an intellectual disability.	✓
<b>MS Queensland</b> – To help people living with MS to get the best out of life; to advocate for change and to search for a cure.	✓
<b>Mt Ommaney Special School</b> - providing engaging, relevant curriculum and innovative, specialised teaching in partnership with families and the community in a safe, supportive environment.	✓
<b>Pillows 4 Oncology Kids</b> - producing and providing children's pillowcases to hospital wards to brighten the stay of the patients and their siblings.	✓
<b>Project Linus</b> - provide homemade quilts to children in need. Support children in hospitals, special schools, refuges and other organisations	✓
<b>RSL Centenary Branch</b> - offering advice and support to all current and former Australian Defence Force members and their families.	✓
<b>Salvation Army</b> - provides social services without discrimination to members of the community	✓