



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is the last newsletter for the current committee and I would like to thank everyone in the club for what I see was a defining year. I look forward to the coming year to further improve.

**Local Signature Projects:** In recent years our club has struggled to find a local charity that is small enough for us to make a difference. This year we have been blessed to form relationships with both Inspire Youth Services and Let's Give. Both charities have welcomed our involvement and most importantly are supported by club members getting involved.

**Club Member Involvement in Meetings:** We made a strategic shift to incorporate the former management meetings into club meetings. Where I have seen a distinct change is club members getting more involved in decision making and taking ownership in our direction. I give a personal thanks to all members in supporting and getting involved with this change.

**Social Activity:** In the 10 years I have been a member this year has certainly seen an increase in social activities within the club. Whilst Kiwanis is about service to the community, we should take time out and have fun.

**Membership:** This past year we have welcomed 2 new members to the club, Narelle and the soon to be inducted Jane-Louise. Hopefully this year we can continue to grow and go against the trend of other service clubs with declining memberships.

On a closing note, I would like to thank all club members for their efforts over the past year which has made my role as president so much easier. Whether you are involved as treasurer, secretary, project liaison, project leader, social event organising, newsletter editor or being an active participant in club meetings, you all make a difference.

Thankyou. Ray

### Committee for 2021/22

<b>President:</b>	Ray Behn
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pat McKinney
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Wayne Cole
<b>Directors:</b>	Mitz Wang Kerry Behn
<b>Projects Team Leader:</b>	Ann Earle
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Trish Madsen
<b>Guest Speaker Coordinator:</b>	Pat McKinney

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## Guest Speakers

May 3rd

### Lyn Atkinson, Let's Give

Lyn Atkinson was our guest speaker in early May. She is known to many of our members for the wonderful charity work she did under the umbrella of 'Giving Grannies'

Having recovered from some serious health issues Lyn is back and passionate about helping others as a founder of Let's Give. "This is a community group whose aim is to provide Gift packs containing both essential items and something to bring a smile to a child's face"

Lyn spoke about their focus on helping 'high need children' by supplying packs which contain new items such as toiletries, a towel, PJs, a book and a Teddy etc. They have made a strong connection with Workways at Woodridge who specialise in delivering programs and services that assist those most in need within the community to successfully transition into long term, meaningful employment. The children of adults participating in this program are a focus for Let's Give.

When asked about how Kiwanis might assist her answer was simple and profound ... Help increase the awareness of what Let's Give does. The photo shows Lyn and club member Kelli Schuh with some of the items donated by Kiwanians at Tuesday's meeting.



## Guest Speakers

July 5<sup>th</sup>: Storm Kolera – Senior Police Constable, QPS

Our guest speaker, Storm Kolera, has a specialised role in working with children and youth through placement in schools. She has worked with school based community and youth Programs for the last eight years and provided the meeting with some very personal information about herself that drove her desire to work in this environment.

In part this was because, by necessity, regular police work is focused on responding to an immediate problem i.e. response/deal with the issue and move on with no time to solve the underlying problem. Her focus is working to bring a longer-term improvement to the lives of children through joint Youth and Community based programs. It is a desire driven from personal experience

Some of these programs are aimed at youths from Year 9 on because experience shows this is when young people start to disengage from the school community, particularly if they don't have strong family support and interaction. Storm stressed that perceived 'self worth' by young individuals is a critical issue that can determine whether or not they move into unhealthy relationships and essentially a downward spiral for their future.

In the school based setting in which she works referral can come from a variety of sources related to the young person's life or by self referral which has a higher long term success rate for the individual. Storm mentioned several of the programs she is involved with such as SHINE and BLUE Edge which help empower young women and enable everyone to recognise their own self-worth.

She is currently involved in the development of some new programs which will take shape over the next few months and will keep in touch with us which is great because we want to improve the lives of children and can do that best if we have a good understanding of the challenges they face.



## Guest Speakers

Oct 4<sup>th</sup>: Carly Lovell – Baby Give Back

Carly first spoke to us (very passionately) about her desire to help new mothers in need back in 2017. At that time she had made a personal commitment to ensure that every child had a safe start to life and hoped that the Baby Give Back initiative would be a vehicle for achieving this. Carly's goal was to make the organisation so successful that she would have to give up her teaching job to see the organisation help many young mothers and children in need.

In 2017 they provided support to 570 children and in 2022 the number had increased to 6,898 children. What a remarkable achievement.

Pre Covid, several of our Club members provided some 'hands on' support for BGB at their workshop in Sumner Park but that dwindled away largely because of the multiple constraints that Covid restrictions placed on our lives.

The organisation has grown exponentially and now has 23 paid staff but still relies on grants and donations to fund their work. Carly highlighted two ways our Club could help their endeavours:

- \* Volunteering at the warehouse
- \* Spreading the word about the work they do through our social networks.



## Inspire Youth & Family Service

Kiwanis has been building a relationship with Inspire Youth and Family Service, an organisation that aims to enhance the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

As a first step, Kiwanis ran the BBQ at an April 6<sup>th</sup> basketball competition run in conjunction with PCYC Inala as part of their youth week activities.

IYS then asked would anyone be able to make curtains for "The Hut" (top photo on right) which opens each Wednesday afternoon and provides an early intervention outreach program. Kiwanian Dianne put her excellent sewing skills to the task and the photos below show some of the curtains in place after being expertly installed by Pat and Graham.

Kiwanis also provided a rug for the hut and recently lent a hand at refurbishing the garden beds, a project run by Bunnings.



## Bunnings BBQs

The catastrophic flooding of the Oxley Bunnings store in February brought our main method of fundraising to a sharp halt. The store is likely to be shut for 2 years as it is raised and rebuilt a metre or 2 higher. In the meantime, Kiwanis has been assigned to the Rocklea store and our first BBQ was **Sept 18<sup>th</sup>**. The event was very successful, raising over \$2,000. Also noteworthy is that this BBQ was run in conjunction with local charity, **Let's Give**. Earlier in the year Lynn Atkinson from Let's Give was a guest speaker at a Kiwanis Club Night (see page 2) and Kiwanis became aware that additional funds for the organisation would aid their excellent work. Sincere thanks to Marie and Graham Simpson for their tireless efforts both in preparing for the BBQ and for staying the entire day to make sure it ran smoothly. Huge thanks also to the volunteers from Let's Give. The photos show Brie and Tayla from Let's Give on the afternoon shift along with cook Garry, & Marie & Graham Simpson.



**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August** Kiwanis helped **Care Kits for Qld** run a BBQ at Cannon Hill Bunnings store. The BBQ was organized by former Kiwanians Jennifer Underhill and Sharon Baldwinson. Care Kits for Qld provide Care Kits containing 2 days of new clothing, toiletries, education supplies, toy, book and quilt for Queensland children in care or crisis. These Care Kits provide practical needs, love, care, comfort and dignity, showing children in care or crisis that they matter and their community cares. The photo shows Kiwanis BBQ legends, Marie and Graham Simpson setting up for the day. It was a very busy and successful BBQ with both Care Kits for Qld and Kiwanis delighted with the outcome.



## School Fete

Saturday June 18th Kiwanis ran the BBQ at the annual Good News Lutheran School Fete. These photos were taken just before the crowd appeared. It must have been one of the busiest BBQs on the planet - the queue went forever. Many thanks to all the Kiwanians who helped and special mention to young helper, Pazel, who did an outstanding job of managing the drink orders.



## Kiwanis Out & About – Xmas in July

Tuesday 26th July, Brisbane Kiwanians celebrated Xmas in July at Jindalee Golf Club Nelson's Bistro. It was a great evening - food was excellent as was the company. Ray made the best speech - short and to the point. Many thanks to Kelli for her fabulous organising and to Kelli and Maxine for the wonderful Xmas themed table decorations. Some photos of the night.....



THIS MIGHT INSPIRE IDEAS FOR OUR BOOK BOXES....

## THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

WENDY ROSE GOULD / KIWANIS CLUB OF Corvallis Sunrisers in Oregon, USA | Aug, 2022

Books bring a smile to kids in need.

A book might seem a small object, but it can open up the world in many ways. Books can take readers on an imaginative journey, boost their literary level, build vocabulary, teach new concepts and improve comprehension and critical thinking skills.

These benefits have long been recognized by the Kiwanis Club of Corvallis Sunrisers in Oregon, and members have prioritized supporting area literacy initiatives. In May 2022, the club launched one of its newest ventures: a free Book Boxes program. It involves placing book-filled boxes at area organizations serving children and teens, including the Child Welfare Office within the Department of Human Services (DHS).

“While we were providing supplies through another of our community service projects for foster families, we learned about the lobby waiting area of the Child Welfare Office where foster kids often spend long times waiting for their appointments,” says Milt Donelson, co-chair of the club’s Literacy Library Committee. “It seemed like an ideal area to place books — of a wide variety of reading levels — to give them something to do while waiting.”

An additional benefit of gifting books to transitory children is that it offers them something permanent that’s theirs and theirs alone during an otherwise unpredictable time. Also, club members feel strongly that helping youth develop a reading relationship with books now will provide them with greater opportunities for success as they grow.

Shortly after the club launched its Book Boxes program, DHS reached out to members to thank them and let them know just how excited the children are about picking out a new book, says Rose Bricker with Benton County’s DHS Child Welfare office.

“The youth we serve have started to anticipate being able to choose a book to take home when they visit our office and will literally *run* to go check out what’s in the free Book Box.”

Recently, club member Phil Ermer joined creative forces with his two children, Sarah and Sean, to design and handmake a new Book Box. Crafted from wood and labeled with the club’s name, the box presents a professional image while making the books easy to access.

The club uses its funds to replenish the Book Boxes every two weeks. Members estimate they’ll give away approximately 360 books in 2022, and they hope to expand in the months ahead by placing additional Book Boxes at more local youth agencies.



# What's Coming Up



Pickle Ball – Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct  
Wayne's

<b>October</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							1
	2	3	4 Dinner Meeting (Change-over)	5 Over 50s Expo	6	7	8
	9	10 Maxine's Bday 	11	12	13	14	15
	16 MD Hog Ride BBQ	17	18 Dinner Meeting	19	20	21	22 Pickle Ball @ Wayne's
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

<b>November</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Dinner Meeting	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15 Dinner Meeting	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			



Salvos Xmas Carols  
Dec 4th

<b>December</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
	4 Salvos Xmas Carols	5	6 Dinner Meeting	7	8	9	10 Bunnings BBQ Rocklea
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31 

## Brisbane Club Achievements

For the 12 months to end September 2022, the Brisbane Kiwanis Club Members have volunteered 614 hours and raised \$5,568.

Causes the Brisbane Club Supports	2021/2022
4074 Community and Beyond - local community run group holding events to benefit charitable organisations.	✓
A Touch of Compassion – Provides meals and groceries for families in the Community in need.	
Brisbane Basket Brigade – providing food and gift packages at Christmas time to disadvantaged families	✓
Care Kids for Kids Queensland - distributing Care Kits for children in crisis or care, from new or handcrafted donations by various sewing and craft groups and the general public.	✓
DanDaLions - seek to nurture the inclusive mindset in future generations and redefine the value of those with 'diffability' in our community	
Eliminate – Kiwanis / UNIEF Program to stop newborns and mothers dying from tetanus	✓
Good News BookFest - supporting a local primary school to raise funds for the P&C to assist providing additional learning opportunities for students.	✓
Heartkids Australia- research into Children's heart disease	✓
Heartkids Queensland – supporting families with children affected by heart disease	✓
Kiwanis Australia District Charitable Foundation – 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.	✓
Kiwanis Childrens Fund – various worldwide projects	✓
Let's Give - supplies packs containing essential items to children in need.	✓
MD Queensland -dedicated to people who live with muscular dystrophy and similar conditions and their families, throughout all of their lives.	✓
Miraa House - a learning life skills centre for women aged 17 and over with an intellectual disability.	
MS Queensland – To help people living with MS to get the best out of life; to advocate for change and to search for a cure.	
Mt Ommaney Special School - providing engaging, relevant curriculum and innovative, specialised teaching in partnership with families and the community in a safe, supportive environment.	
Pillows 4 Oncology Kids - producing and providing children's pillowcases to hospital wards to brighten the stay of the patients and their siblings.	
Project Linus - provide homemade quilts to children in need. Support children in hospitals, special schools, refuges and other organisations	
RSL Centenary Branch - offering advice and support to all current and former Australian Defence Force members and their families.	✓
Salvation Army - provides social services without discrimination to members of the community	✓
The Hut, Inala: Inspire Youth and Family Services – providing a safe place for kids, bringing them in off the streets.	✓