



"THE KEY" GROWTH TEAM NEWSLETTER

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Kiwanis Australia District

"DIVERSITY"

In part Chapter 1 of 'The Kiwanis Story' by L.A. "Larry" Hapgood introduced the beginnings of Kiwanis in the following way;

It was also a murky December 7 in Detroit but Allen Simpson Browne had no thought of the gloomier aspects of the day. He was setting out on a new adventure. He was fresh from both success and failure—successful in establishing Moose lodges in both the United States and Canada, but unsuccessful in organizing a Detroit venture, the Loyal Home Fraternity based upon sickness and accident benefits.

His spirits were high as he approached 1188 Gratiot Avenue, the location of the merchant tailor's shop of Joseph G. Prance. He believed he knew the type of fraternal club businessmen really wanted. His contacts revealed a growing interest in a club of only business and professional men without insurance features. Men seemed to be grasping for new ideas in human relationships. To Allen Browne it was a day of bright promise.

And so, after Joe Prance signed the application form and gave Allen Browne \$5 the 'Benevolent Order Brothers' began.

As stated in the book the name was unsatisfactory from the beginning and the Indian expression "*Nunc Kee-wanis*" was found in a dictionary of the Otchipew language. So "Kiwanis" came into being.

It's fair to say we have come a long way since then, but how many clubs have moved far from the original male fraternal character?

In the mid 1970's the vexed question of gender in the then male dominated service clubs reached the high court in America. The U.S Jaycees and Rotary International battled through the courts over their rights to limit membership on gender. The U.S Supreme Court ruled in mid 1987 that Rotary must open its membership to both sexes in California.

A vote on July 7, 1987 at the Kiwanis International Convention in Washington saw 80% of the 5,600+ male delegates stand in support of the motion to remove the gender bias.

By the end of the 1987-88 administrative year over 8,500 women had joined Kiwanis worldwide.

1997-98 International President Walter G. Sellers reiterated Kiwanis attitude to diversity when he said, "*Make it known that Kiwanis represents all races, cultures and religious beliefs. Make it known that Kiwanis is an organization for men and women. Make it known that Kiwanis welcomes young, middle-age, and older adults in our fellowship and service.*"

Australia is a multicultural society that has accepted affirmative action and diversity in society and the workplace.

The inclusion of women into Kiwanis clubs worldwide has provided immeasurable benefits. A more diverse membership will provide similar benefits that will come from differences in race, religion and philosophy.

Now is the time to look outside the square for members from different areas of our society; members who can bring new ideas from the experiences of their culture. Members who can unlock the doors to growth in Kiwanis.

Graham Mould

Growth Chairman

Committed Kiwanians?

Each of you made a commitment to Kiwanis. For some, that was made recently; for others, many years ago. Remember why **you** joined Kiwanis? You probably joined because someone **asked** you to join. You can do the same! Invite someone to join and thereby increase your Club's membership and increase our ability to serve.

Because May is



Membership Month



MAY IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH! I would like for each club to set a goal for club growth and develop a plan to achieve that goal. How many people can **you** invite to share the Kiwanis experience during May?

The following is an extract from an article by President Paul Palazzolo;

There's no peculiar answer to why we need to highlight MAY as MEMBERSHIP MONTH or why we must strengthen our Kiwanis Club membership. When we have more Kiwanians, we can provide more service - more Terrific Kids programs, more hands to work at our clubs' fund raisers, more help to fulfill our responsibilities of Kiwanis Family sponsorship and more smiles on the faces of children in our communities and around the globe. For this answer and for these reasons in your community, let's plan now to make May 2010 the most successful KIWANIS MEMBERSHIP MONTH ever

Don't keep Kiwanis as "the best kept secret". Please share your experiences in Kiwanis with your friends and colleagues.

Put simply: ask them to join!

If you need any assistance, or even just a sounding board for your ideas, please feel free to call me on 0418 494144 or growth Chairman Graham Mould (03) 5243 3359. We are here to help!

The time to grow is now. The needs of our communities have never been greater. Remember, to give someone the opportunity to change a child's life is an amazing gift.

Thank you for your commitment to Kiwanis and to the work that you do.

Ken Archer
Governor



The new Melbourne

It is probable that most Kiwanians in Australia would classify the Kiwanis Club of Melbourne as a classic old style club of elderly Anglo Saxon men. However whilst most clubs in Australia are struggling to maintain their membership numbers the Melbourne club has reinvented itself with new members coming from a range of ethnic backgrounds and ages.

It has been a successful formula, with the current membership spanning ages from 21 to 80+ and with members born in Australia, England, America, New Zealand, Holland, Malaysia, India, Singapore and with potential members from Malaysia, Singapore, China and Taiwan.

The club achieved over 25% increase in membership during last year and is working hard to continue its commitment to encourage further growth from younger and more diverse cultures.

NEW MEMBER PROSPECT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Post code _____

Partner's name _____

Home Phone () _____

Business Ph () _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Occupation _____

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.