



Kiwaniis
GEELONG

Newsletter
Newsletter

Incorporated in Victoria A0004674V

P.O. Box 429, Geelong, Vic 3220



March 2024 (28)

What's Coming Up

Club Meeting's March 13th & 27th

Good News – A New Member

Vera Lloyd who has been working with the **Sew & So** group for a long time and has been a major contributor in the actual sewing has joined the club. Welcome Vera.

2024 Aspac (Asia Pacific) Convention Adelaide - March 7th to 10th.

The club will be represented at the ASPAC Convention by Past Governor Graham Mould and Past Governor Spencer Harding. Also attending will be International President Katrina Baranko, Executive Director Paul Palazzolo, International President Elect Lee Kuan Yong, ASPAC Chair Sujana Shrestha and ASPAC Secretary Dato Stewart Labrooy.

Report on Convention in next newsletter.

Guest Speaker on Feb 28th



Margaret Mould introduced Guest Speaker Ross Wright at the meeting and later presented a certificate of appreciation. Ross has lived in Cambodia for almost twenty years. Margaret is a friend of the sister of Ross.

Annual Doll, Teddy and Craft Show.

Saturday 15th June 2024

Planning for the 2024 Doll and Teddy show will commence with a meeting of the committee. The Masonic Hall in Belmont has been booked. Bob Chapman requested he not continue as Chairman due to business pressures and because he will be overseas at the time of the show Graham Mould was elected as the new chairman. The committee will consist of Graham, Jennifer, Ruth, Carmen, Hillary, Margaret and George. Bob will provide all the help he can from the sidelines. A meeting of the committee will take place immediately after the close of our next club meeting on March 13th

Quote from Guest Speaker Ross Wright –
Education is the cure for poverty

Bunnings BBQ

The next bbq, s at Bunnings are. Friday March 22nd & Sunday April 28th *Your help would be appreciated.*

Safer Drivers and Passengers Innovation Program Report (Jan 2024)

The first half of the Community Road Safety Grants Program 2023/2024 has been ticked off by Dept of Transport (formerly Vic Roads).

The second half was scheduled to be delivered in the second half of 2023, but due to family reasons involving the volunteer instructor and a couple of other factors and extension was granted by the Dept of Transport to complete the program in the first half of 2024. This has been scheduled with our partners Northern Bay P-12 College and the Geelong Industry Trade Training Centre and is currently on track for delivery in early 2024.

Phil is also willing to donate his time to continue the program for a further 12 months.

The Community Road Safety Grants and Application for 2024 – 2025 opens on 7 February and closes on 6 th March, with successful applicants notified in June 2024.

Phil has been actively encouraged by Sally Swankie, Road Safety Partnerships Coordinator Road Safety Victoria, Department of Transport and Planning to continue the program for the 2024 -2025 grant period. (See letter in latest Newsletter regarding the esteem Phil and the Kiwanis Driver Program is held by Vic Roads). Phil is willing to apply for the grant as he has previously and will have the final submission

signed off by the club president, as has been the case with all previous applications. Any unused funds can be directed to driving lessons for those students that don't qualify for use of the community car or can be directed back to the club for such purposes as assisting the funding of our student encouragement awards.

Phil is also investigating a proposal where students from Nelson Park and Northern Bay who complete the course and acquire an apprenticeship in an auto related field who do not get assistance from the School Based Apprenticeship Program or are lacking financial support could be given a tool box or work uniform to assist them transition into employment. Much like the \$400 for the Kiwanis Encouragement Award to Nelson Park for 2023 which was presented to En Tah Klay. The \$400 was spent on a tool box and tools.

Guest Speaker - Mr David Lunn Meeting – Wed 17th Feb 2024



Our Guest Speaker, David Lunn introduced us to the problems for street kids in Manila in the Philippines. David came prepared for an illustrated talk but unfortunately video facilities were not available so he described his own visits to the Kuya Center and its aims and objectives. The Kuya Center had been established in the early 1990's in rented premises that was the site of David's first visit in 2007. A church conceived organisation, the Kuya Center's residential and community based programs cater for poverty-stricken boys between 5 and 15 years of age that are living on the streets, orphaned, abandoned, or have run away from home due to issues of abuse or neglect. David was deeply moved by what he experienced and has continued working and supporting Kuya since then. The Center not only provides immediate intervention but is also a half-way home for many children awaiting family reconciliation. David's second visit was in 2019 by which time the Center was operating from a purpose built complex which included self contained bedrooms for visitors. The children slept on the 2nd floor with the ground floor set aside for day to day and educational activities. Most recently David travelled to Manila in 2023. Now with volunteer support the Center provides non-formal education to approximately 350 children each year.



Carmen Chapman presented David with a certificate of appreciation and a large bag of clothing made by the Sew & So ladies which will be sent to the Philippines to help with the necessary work of the Kuya Center.

Bandages & Tape Distribution

Through our contacts at Aero Healthcare and Pardy's Pharmacy in Belmont, Kiwanis was donated a third batch of band aids, tape and bandages for Kiwanis to distribute via our community contacts to worthy causes in the Geelong Area.

On Wednesday 21st February, following a motion at the club meeting on 14th February Kiwanian member Graeme Munro delivered a collection of bandages, band aids and tape to Christ Church Community Meals Program and St Vincent de Paul. Approximately half of the latest batch was donated to each organization. In total 508 items with an estimated retail value of \$2,900.



Graeme Munroen at the Christ Church delivery with Ruth Christian and Jan McGown



At the St Vincent de Paul delivery Graeme and President of the Society in Geelong Marti Butler



President Greg and Carmen Chapman presenting kids clothes to Ross Wright to take back to Cambodia in a few days time.

Guest Speaker – Mr Ross Wright Meeting – February 28th 2024

Ross Wright, speaker at our meeting on the 28th spoke of his experiences and frustrations living in Cambodia. Ross moved to Cambodia in 2005 and early on visited the local rubbish dump to hand out food to kids in need to find there were several N.G.O's (Non Government Organisations) doing the same. Later on Ross and friends established a soup kitchen where the kids were given a card understand where the kids were coming from. That established many were in a bad way from sniffing glue and petrol. Moving from Phnom Penh to a province Ross worked to set up a school for primary to grade six, with courses for older kids such as hairdressing and mechanics. Also set up a small clinic with transport by TucTuc to hospital for some cases. In 2012 he was able to supply safe piped drinking water to replace the existing dangerous bore water supply that contained arsenic.

Later he was able to build a Primary school with eight classrooms and lots of other facilities that catered for 300 plus students. To support this an N.G.O named CHOICE was established. The name was an acronym from the words, Choice, Humanitarian, and Organization, in, Cambodia, by Expats.

Covid ruined everything when adult student could no longer attend to provide free education. Supporting donors were lost but staff still had to be paid and the school was forced to close. Over time school equipment was either sold or given to monks who ran other services for the poor. He still runs a medical and family assistance service but the school was for sale for around \$US 1M but now reduced to around ½ M. Part of living in Cambodia he explained was constant scam's to steal and con money, fake beggars with expats describing Cambodia as Scambodia. Recent problems have centered around an Aussie solicitor being used to try and transfer the school property into the hands of a local woman.