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Since 1998 a Project of the Rotary Club of Scarborough, Western Australia, assisted by The Christian Brothers.





# "10 ROWS A DAY..."

#### A special tribute from Volunteer Beth Buchanan.

"Mollie Davies, a dear friend of mine and Wheelchairs for Kids, died in early January this year at the age of 97 years. She was a talented and skilled woman who, after hearing about the Wheelchairs for Kids Volunteers, joined our team of knee rug makers 12 years ago. She had never learned how to crochet; but soon learnt.

A call from Mollie was never that she had a rug but always 'some rugs to pick up when passing' which meant from 6 to 10 stunning rugs in a kaleidoscope of colours.

I shall quote her daughter, Roz, "She was so proud to be involved with

Wheelchairs for Kids and promoted the Charity at every opportunity." She was a committed Ambassador. After a severe heart attack three years ago, the crocheting continued in hospital with her making sure everyone knew her work was for Wheelchairs for Kids. As her health was failing she set herself a daily challenge to crochet 10 rows with each row being one metre long.

Her last words to me as I left on my final visit were 'No rugs today, Beth.' A few days later she died leaving one of her 10 rows half finished. It has been my privilege to finish the rows and the rug for her.

It seems to me that we, as Volunteers, choose our rows and how many we can do. Whatever form the rows take it is all these '10 rows' we do that make Wheelchairs for Kids the great organisation it is.

Thank you, Mollie, for being such an inspiration helping to cover so many little knees."

(The above photo of Mollie was taken in the winter and you can see her beloved cat snuggled up in the blanket while she was crocheting away! - It worked for both of them! Thank you, Roz.



#### WFK REPRESENTATION

Would you like to represent Wheelchairs for Kids at events that occur from time to time to raise funds for the project? It is proposed that a Committee be set up to organise representation at events like The Duck Derby and events at Hyde Park as well as at Fairs where we may have a stall. If you are interested please let Olly or Bob Sheridan know.

# A Word from the CEO

I've said before, most charities are really feeling the pinch during this economic downturn, but amazingly our income in the year to December increased again, with much of this from the doubling of income from our Christmas card project—thanks Cathy Cutler and family.



CEO Gordon Hudson

Being so busy with the many facets of production and distribution we don't have time to do the bulk of our fund raising ourselves, but rely on a tremendous team of supporters Australia wide and in many walks of life donating or raising funds. Our main object in this respect is asking people to spread the word—it works!

I always like to give an example of the lengths which people go to support us. One such instance, The Rotary Club of Upper Yarra, Victoria, with many worthwhile other projects of their own, ran a sausage sizzle for eight months just benefitting us. This at the local shopping centre. The sausages were even donated by the local butcher. A wheelchair was displayed and our leaflets handed out —**spreading the word.** 

This magazine was originally commenced as an information and instruction vehicle to our production volunteers. The workshop now has a very well organised personal information and instruction set up and so this magazine has now become a flagship of the organisation. However one workshop occurrence is worthy of mention;

We have always attached a lot of importance to workshop safety, have attended seminars on the subject and recently asked a retired WorkSafe lecturer to survey our production unit, which he carried out voluntarily. We received a very favorable report, with only a few suggestions such as fitting emergency stops on some of the older machines and ensuring that all electrical leads are securely tied back. He noted that all electrical equipment is tagged as required - this by our own licensed volunteer electricians Bob Dickman and John Longmire.

Wheelchairs for Kids primary aim is to give a more meaningful life to many of the millions of disabled children in lesser resourced countries. We know that just supplying a wheelchair is only half way there. Correct fitting by a trained person is important. However, our output has grown such that it is often difficult to find areas having this competence, despite organisations such as Motivation carrying out this training task. Luckily, in Australia we have specialised Occupational Therapists who on occasions volunteer to go and train locals. The Wheelchairs for Kids Management Committee has therefore agreed that we will provide reasonable travel expenses to these volunteers. These funds normally being provided by donors agreeing to help in this way. Doesn't this make you even more proud of our project? Cheerio for now.

## Gratitude from Sheryl's Dad in Malawi.



"I am Peter Ngunga from Malawi, a parent of Sheryl who is 6 years old and was born with cerebral palsy. I would like to thank you for making it possible for Sheryl to have a wheelchair, something important in her life but that we could not have afforded to buy.

We live in the southern part in Zomba, the old capital city of Malawi. She is unable to talk, walk, crawl, eat by herself or manage body wastes.

The wheelchair relieves us of the difficulties in carrying her wherever we take her as she now weighs over 20 kg.

We received your kind donation through MAP ( Malawi Against Polio ) and Kachere Rehabilitation Centre.





I thought that maybe some beneficiaries do not give feedback because they are not aware where the wheelchairs come from. As for me, I read at the back of the wheelchair about you but those who gave us the wheelchair here never explained to us how the wheelchair came to be in Malawi or the people behind it. Thank you for this and continue to reach out to others in need as well."

**BIG** thank you to all who have contributed to our income from the metal recycling activity. Since 2005, the money from all those aluminium cans, aluminium ringpulls, copper bits and pieces etc etc has put around 365 wheelchairs into needy

since 2005 \$58,317.68 from recycled metal. families in under-resourced countries.

1,110,000 the number of ringpulls worth \$200 (the cost of a wheelchair).



### Residents of Bandyup Prison help Wheelchairs for Kids

Assistant Superintendent Offender Services **Kym McKay** explains why **Bandyup residents** became involved in producing 95 backrest cushion covers for our wheelchairs:



"Providing opportunities for our residents to engage in real world community based initiatives is an important step in their rehabilitation and preparation for reintegration back into the community.

A highlight of this program was the sense of pride the residents developed in being able to assist children who are far less fortunate than most."

Image: L-R Wheelchairs for Kids representatives Beppie De Kuyer and Bob Sheridan accept the cushion covers at Bandyup in September 2015.



Once again a team of
Wheelchairs for Kids
Volunteers are getting
together to hold a Stall at
the Poynter Primary



School's Farmers' Market on Saturday

7th May 2016 from 9.00am to 12.00 noon

to fund raise for our worthy cause –

Wheelchairs for Kids.

To help make this Stall successful I am asking for your help with donations of cakes, slices, biscuits and preserves. Any plants you would like to pot and donate will also be welcomed.

There will also be a Raffle of a "Mothers' Day Hamper"

I can be contacted by email on egalos@bigpond.net.au or mobile 0406 961 978.

On the day before, your donations may be dropped off at my home 14 Pebblewood Road Woodvale.... or I am willing to come to you and collect.

Please help to make this another successful day.

7hankyou

Beth Galos



MAY & JULY HAPPENINGS.

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### OLUNTEERS WHO MAKE THE WHEELCHAIRS















of
wheelchairs
made so far
in 2016.





Top row L to R: Keith Simmonite, Chester Wolanski, John Brennan

Middle row L to R: Mike Smith, Al Koch, Johan Jobert

Bottom row L to R: Derek Jackson, Brian Phillips

DOING THEIR 10 ROWS?

SEE STORY PAGE 1.



\*Very Special thanks to Workshop Volunteers <u>Patsy Runge</u> and <u>Bob Parry</u> - the organisers of our amazing team who work on behalf of Wheelchairs for Kids at the cinema venues.

### Gifts to the needy children of the world from our Friends in Lake Grace.









If you would like to help us you can do so in any of the following ways:

- 1. A cheque made out to "Wheelchairs for Kids" and posted to: Wheelchairs for Kids Inc, PO Box 1175, Wangara DC, WA 6947.
- 2. By credit card ring (08) 9409 3633.
- 3. Visit our website (See page 8) and click on "How to Help".
- 4. Consider making a bequest in your will\*.

\*Last year 20% of our income was from such caring thoughts.

\$200 creates a wheelchair and changes a life for the better.

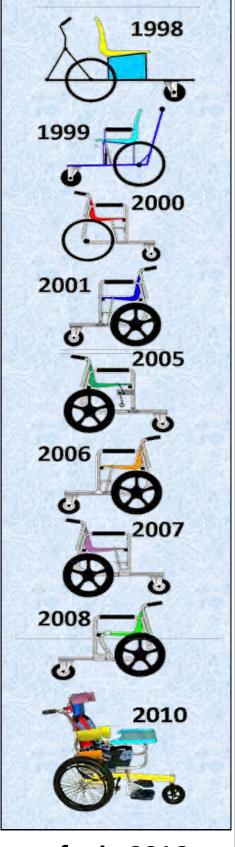


Since 1998 we have manufactured and given

33,467 wheelchairs

to disadvantaged children around the world.

AFGHANISTAN	1	INDONESIA (TOTAL)	851	PERU	2
ALBANIA	40	BALI	646	PHILIPPINES	582
ANGOLA	50	FLORES ISLAND	20	ROMANIA	131
ARMENIA	302	JAVA	112	SAMOA	231
BANGLADESH	338	LOMBOK	37	SIERRA LEONE	163
BELARUS	131	SALATIGA	8	SINGAPORE	1
BOSNIA	100	SUMATRA	28	SOLOMON ISLANDS	244
BOUGAINVILLE	6	JORDAN	105	SOMALIA	332
BRAZIL	2	KENYA	1072	SOMALILAND	70
BULGARIA	25	KIRIBATI	122	SOUTH AFRICA	90
BURKINA FASO	164	LAOS	20	SOUTH KOREA	20
BURUNDI	12	LEBANON	507	SRI LANKA	2204
CAMBODIA	778	LIBERIA	181	SUDAN	60
CANADA	1	LIBYA	340	SYRIA	507
CHERNOBYL	60	MADAGASCAR	46	TAIWAN	50
CHINA	1579	MALAWI	166	TANZANIA	1559
COOK ISLANDS	5	MALAYSIA	7	THAILAND	334
D.R. OF CONGO	806	MALDIVES	4	TONGA	16
EAST TIMOR	890	MAURITANIA	75	UGANDA	787
EL SALVADOR	1	MAURITIUS	45	UKRAINE	25
ETHIOPIA	69	MOLDOVA	40	USA -CALIFORNIA DEMO	1
FIJI (TOTAL)	669	MONGOLIA	108	VANUATU	207
ONO - I -LAU	10	MOROCCO	168	VIETNAM	7220
SAVU SAVU	40	MOZAMBIQUE	99	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	5
SUVA	619	MYANMAR	1592	YEMEN	166
GAZA	656	NAURU	10	ZAMBIA	412
GHANA	162	NEPAL	17	ZIMBABWE	485
INDIA	353	NIGERIA	438	Me	
IRAN	22	PAKISTAN	506	Mee	
IRAQ	1949	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1873		



1005 wheelchairs have been sent overseas so far in 2016.

# Wheelchairs for Kids on Display in Melbourne.





In November, 2015, Wheelchairs For Kids exhibited at the Zone Institute Showcase in Melbourne which is an annual event on the Rotary calendar in Australia and New Zealand attended by all the existing and incoming Executive level Rotary personnel who determine the pathway into the next Rotary year. About forty exhibitors were present at the Institute Showcase. The WFK booth attracted much attention and interest from the attendees numbering around four hundred. Our special thanks go to attendees Rotarians Russell Hayes (Wheelchairs For Kids East Coast Division) and **Trevor Canning** (Chairman, Wheelchairs For Kids Management Committee).

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TO PLACE AN ARTICLE IN "THE DRILL" CONTACT BOB AT bobsheridan@iinet.net.au





The Christian Brothers

**John Hughan** 

**Velmade Prestige**