



Brother Thomas Oliver “Olly” Pickett AM – 2025 Western Australian of the Year

Br. Olly Pickett received the state’s highest honour being named the 2025 Western Australian of the Year, presented by BHP at the awards night held at Crown Ballroom on 29th May 2025.

Earlier in the evening Br Olly also received the Alcoa of Australia Community Award for 2025. The WA Day Festival awards, celebrate people who have dedicated their lives to serving others and inspiring their communities.

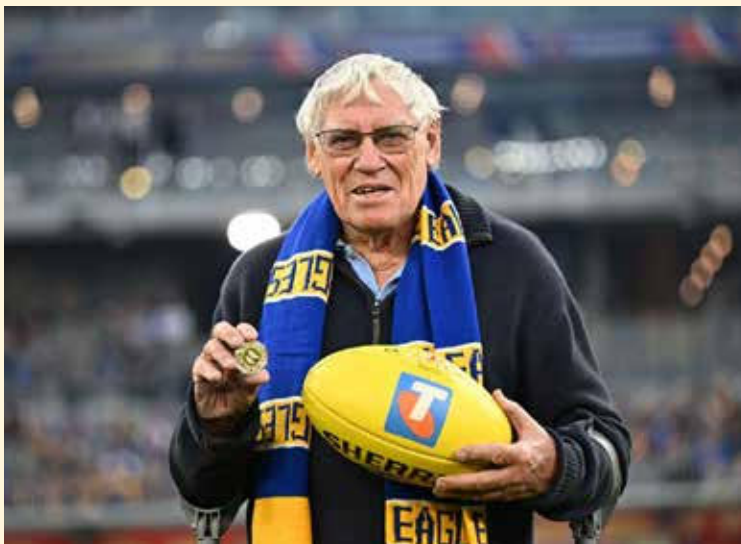
A humble hero and the driving force behind Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, Br. Olly has dedicated nearly 30 years to transforming the lives of children living with disabilities in some of the world’s poorest communities. Br. Olly has led an incredible effort to deliver over 64,000 all-terrain wheelchairs, giving children the chance for mobility, dignity and participation in life.

The WFKA volunteer powered factory is a meaningful hub for retirees and volunteers alike, a place where people find purpose and joy in building wheelchairs. They’re supported by wonderful groups who lovingly create cuddly teddies and cosy rugs to go with each wheelchair.



Br Olly’s legacy is about compassion, service and hope, showing that giving back knows no age limit and that one person can truly inspire a global movement.

Congratulations Br. Olly, your extraordinary dedication has changed countless lives across the world.



Br. Olly’s WA Day Coin Toss

To celebrate WA Day, The Perth Mint created a special gold-plated medallion used for the official coin toss at the West Coast Eagles v Geelong Cats match at Optus Stadium on the 1st June.

Our very own Br. Olly Pickett, 2025 WA Australian of the Year, had the honour of performing the official coin toss.

UPDATE – CEO Greg Hebble

While the world continues to face uncertainty through global conflicts, economic challenges and shifting trade policies, we at Wheelchairs For Kids Australia are pleased to share some uplifting news.

In May, our beloved Br. Olly Pickett was named Western Australian of the Year! This honour recognises his unwavering dedication and the profound impact he has on our mission. True to form, Br. Olly always reminds everyone that such recognition belongs to all who make our vision possible, our amazing volunteers, the Rotary Club of Scarborough and the Christian Brothers. His humility and grace continue to inspire us all.



Robyn Langridge, Lina Marando and Marie Cocks

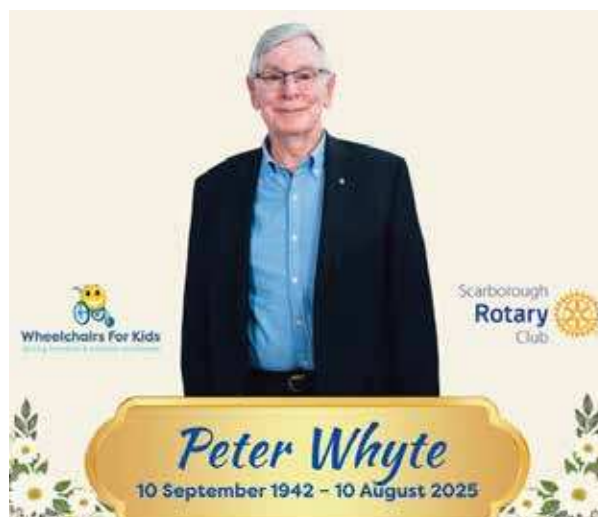
Recently, our volunteers came together to host another successful Quiz Night at our factory. These events require significant effort beyond our day to day work and we're grateful to all our volunteers, donors and supporters who made it such a memorable evening.

As always, things never stand still for long around here. Preparations are well underway for our very first Open Day on Saturday, 13 September. Volunteers have been propagating plants, collecting books, making jams and more, all ready to welcome the community for a fun and

engaging day. We hope to see you there.

We were also honoured to exhibit at the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne in May 2023. There, we connected with the Rotary Club of Balwyn, who encouraged us to apply for their Centenary Grant program. While we didn't receive the grant, they were so impressed with our impact that they generously donated \$45,650 enough to fund 166 wheelchairs or a full 20ft shipping container. We're deeply grateful for their support and commitment to changing children's lives.

Amid the good news, we sadly share the passing of one of our most valued Directors, Peter Whyte (10 September 1942 – 10 August 2025). For over 27 years, Peter was a driving force behind Wheelchairs For Kids Australia. His pro bono



legal expertise shaped our structure, sustainability and growth. He drafted our constitution, incorporated the project and later created the Wheelchairs For Kids Foundation, helping secure our debt-free facility. More recently, he oversaw our transition to Wheelchairs For Kids Australia Ltd, ensuring strong governance and succession.

Peter embodied Rotary's motto, Service Above Self. His wisdom, humour and steady leadership will be deeply missed. His legacy lives on in every wheelchair delivered. RIP Peter.

Greg Hebble



National Volunteer Week, 19–25 May 2025

What a joy it was to kick off National Volunteers week with a visit from Minister for Volunteering Hannah Beazley MLA, Daniel Pastorelli MLA, Volunteering WA CEO Tina Williams and Councillors from the City of Wanneroo, who joined us in celebrating the incredible spirit of our volunteers.

The day also marked the launch of our new memorial plaque initiative, a way to honour past volunteers who are no longer with us. Minister Beazley kindly helped Dot Ammerer and Pat Gallagher attach plaques to wheelchairs in memory of their beloved husbands, Alf Ammerer and Ken Gallagher, both cherished members of our volunteer family.

National Volunteer Week was the perfect time to recognise the amazing people who give their time and talents so generously. Our



Minister Beazley MLA, Br. Olly Pickett, Pat Gallagher, Dot Ammerer, Tom Ravenscroft, Daniel Pastorelli MLA

volunteers never ask for praise, but they certainly deserve it. We are proud, grateful and continually inspired by the kindness and commitment of our volunteers every single day.



Wheelchairs for War Affected Kids

Wheelchairs For Kids Australia has shipped a 40-ft container with 350 wheelchairs to Jordan. With support from the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation, it will clear Aqaba and continue by convoy to the Rafah crossing and into Gaza, where the wheelchairs will be delivered to children injured in the ongoing conflict.

This special shipment was made possible by the Palestinian Australian & New Zealand Medical Association (PANZMA), a non-profit organisation that addresses health and humanitarian challenges by bringing together volunteer medical professionals to support communities affected by conflict, displacement and hardship.

Each wheelchair is purpose built to suit the challenging environments these children face. To ensure safe and proper fitting, WFKA translated the instruction manuals into Arabic so doctors and occupational therapists can confidently assemble

them to suit each child's individual needs.

The war in Gaza has had devastating consequences on families and communities. Many children have suffered life-changing injuries and lost access to essential medical care. WFKA is proud to provide practical help that restores hope and mobility to those who need it most.

This container is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable children worldwide.



Collaboration in Kenya – Mama Respond



Mama Respond is built on a simple belief: Every mother and child with special needs deserves access to care, education and support to live with dignity and independence.

This belief was at the core of a recent collaboration between Wheelchairs For Kids Australia and Mama Respond. A five day wheelchair training program was held in Kitengela, Kenya, an unforgettable week of training, teamwork and transformation.

Led by WFKA Occupational Therapists Linda McAllister and Kevin Baptist, together with Simon Mutugi and local occupational therapists, the training

covered wheelchair assembly and adjustments from basic fittings to complex cases, giving everyone valuable hands-on experience.

Participants travelled from across Kenya and are now better equipped to assess each child's individual needs and advocate for families facing mobility challenges in their communities.

A highlight of the program was seeing nine children receive their wheelchairs, for many, it was their first time experiencing true mobility and independence.

Br. George Massay's Heartwarming Encounter

While visiting family in Tanzania's Manyara Region, Br George Massay CFC, from the Christian Brothers in Nairobi had a lovely surprise during a visit to Haydom Hospital. He came across children happily zooming around in wheelchairs made by Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, and it absolutely made his day.

Br George watched the kids move freely, clearly proud of their newfound mobility. When he introduced himself and shared photos of Br Olly Pickett and the WFKA volunteers, he was warmly welcomed with parents and children expressing heartfelt thanks for their wheelchairs.



Haydom Hospital, founded by Norwegian Lutheran missionaries, provides vital services to remote and low-income communities. Twice a year, it runs special programs for children with conditions like spina bifida and hydrocephalus offering

care, therapy and life changing mobility equipment.

Br. George visited the WFKA factory back in 2024, so seeing the wheelchairs in action was a full-circle moment.

New Hope for Jahid

Young Jahid's smile said it all. After years of lying on the floor, he finally has a wheelchair of his own, thanks to WFKA and Global Village Foundation in Bali.

Abandoned as a baby, Jahid has been lovingly raised by his grandmother despite her own hardships. They live simply and until recently, he had never had access to a wheelchair. A donated adult wheelchair was their first, but it was far from ideal, offering little support or comfort for his small, stiff body.

Years of immobility had left Jahid with scoliosis and joint stiffness. Though non-verbal, he understands everything



around him. The difference a proper wheelchair made was instant, he sat upright beaming with joy.

His grandmother holding back tears, thanked everyone from her heart. For the first time, they can leave the house with ease, giving them both a little more freedom, dignity and connection to the outside world.

Sewing Spirit



Robyne Kos, Anne Heinrich, Heather Ballarine, Rita McIntyre

If you've wandered past the sewing corner at the Wheelchairs For Kids Australia factory lately, you've probably noticed a buzz of activity, sewing machines humming, fabric being cut and plenty of friendly chatter. That's thanks to the drive and heart of volunteer Rita Macintyre.

Since stepping up to coordinate the sewing team, Rita has helped transform the way it works. For many years, most of the sewing from seat covers to tool bags was done off-site by individuals and groups. While this worked well for a long time, it became harder to maintain consistent sizes and standards, especially with increasing demand.

By bringing more of the sewing process into the factory, control and accuracy have improved. Fabric is now pre-cut using clear templates, ensuring covers and bags consistently fit our wheelchairs perfectly. This also eases the strain on home sewers who may not have the space or tools to cut fabric safely or accurately.

The sewing space is now fully equipped with four sewing machines and a custom built cutting table.

Rita has stitched together a sewing community with purpose.

Barbara's Teddy Magic

Barbara Kenny is one of our kind-hearted regulars at Wheelchairs For Kids Australia and her talent with knitting needles is making a difference.

Over the years, Barbara has lovingly created and donated hand-knitted teddies, each one unique, colourful and made with love, with her latest batch of 80 teddies sure to bring joy to the children receiving our wheelchairs.



Beppie deKuyser, Jane Gooch

Duratec – Support in Action

Duratec's willingness to lend a hand is what truly sets them apart. As our neighbours in Wangara, the Duratec team never hesitate to lend a hand when a container of stock arrives. Come rain or a brisk Perth winter morning, they're right there with our volunteers, unloading the materials needed to build the next batch of wheelchairs.

We're incredibly grateful for their ongoing support and generosity. It's mates like Duratec that help us keep moving forward.



Br. Olly, Duratec staff and WFKA volunteers

Hope delivered by Global Village Foundation

On 1st July, the Global Village Foundation Bali Wheelchair Team began their second major wheelchair distribution in Lampung Province, Sumatra. This event follows an October 2024 distribution, that also supported 170 children. The overwhelming demand that followed prompted GVF to return.

Over nine days, the team delivered and fitted 170 Wheelchairs For Kids Australia wheelchairs to disadvantaged children.

Departing Bali, the team flew to Bandar Lampung, where families



from remote regions travelled, some overnight to access the support. Lampung covers 36,000 square km and has a population of 9.5 million. Around 2.3 million are children, with an estimated 76,000 living with

disabilities. For many, obtaining a fitted wheelchair is impossible due to cost and access.

Each wheelchair is individually fitted by the GVF team, fittings can take up to three hours. On average, the team fits around 25 wheelchairs per day.

Global Village Foundation is the only NGO in Indonesia distributing WFKA wheelchairs nationwide. With support from government partners, sponsors and the GVF Kafe in Lovina Beach, this project brings mobility and new possibilities to children living with disabilities.

Rolling into Moroccan Hearts

In July 2025, Aussie volunteers Clara Reiger an Occupational Therapist, Sarah Lee and Bev Eldridge both Physiotherapists, headed to Morocco to work with Red Goes Faster. Travelling from Marrakech to the Zagora and Ouarzazate regions, they teamed up with local volunteers to fit and adjust wheelchairs for 20 children.

Each child is unique, so every wheelchair is carefully adjusted to suit their needs. Some children were able to get around on their own, even over rocky roads, while others needed full support.

The wheelchairs made their way home in all sorts of inventive ways, tied to bicycles, balanced on motorbikes and squeezed into the tiniest cars. The real magic came from the smiles on the children faces during their first ride, and the warmth of sharing cous cous Fridays and sweet tea with the lovely village families.

It was a heartwarming mix of mobility, connection an unforgettable glimpse into Moroccan culture and kindness.



Wheelchair Distribution Day in South Cotabato, Philippines

Our distribution partners, the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal in South Cotabato, Philippines, held a Wheelchair Distribution Day on 10 May in partnership with the Rotary Club of Mt Apo. Ten children with cerebral palsy received wheelchairs.

Since November 2024, the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal has distributed over 40 wheelchairs to children in need.



Thanks for the Teddies!








































































































A big thank you to everyone who's contributed to the Wheelchairs For Kids Australia soft toy and teddy drive! Thanks to your wonderful support, our shelves are filling up with toys ready to bring comfort.

As we pack 30 wheelchairs each day and each wheelchair includes a knitted teddy, a cuddly soft toy and a warm rug, we're constantly on the lookout for more cuddly companions to include.

Why not encourage your local school or community group to hold a teddy drive for Wheelchairs For Kids Australia? Contact our office for details.

Wheelchairs dispatched since 1996

 AFGHANISTAN	1	 GAZA	1006	 NEPAL	703	 VANUATU	383
 ALBANIA	40	 GHANA	234	 NIGERIA	806	 VIETNAM	8054
 ANGOLA	50	 GUINEA	1	 PAKISTAN	848	 YEMEN	166
 ARMENIA	302	 INDIA	368	 PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2225	 ZAMBIA	2704
 AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	29	 INDONESIA (TOTAL)	4924	 BOUGAINVILLE	6	 ZIMBABWE	487
 COCOS IS.	1	 BALI	2516	 PERU	2	64,960	
 BANGLADESH	671	 FLORES IS.	20	 PHILIPPINES	2096		
 BELARUS	131	 JAVA	1805	 ROMANIA	132		
 BHUTAN	8	 LOMBOK	547	 RWANDA	516		
 BORNEO	340	 SALATIGA	8	 SAMOA	231	2025/2026 Financial Year Dispatch	
 BOSNIA	100	 SUMATRA	28	 SEYCHELLES	60		
 BOTSWANA	1	 IRAN	22	 SIERRA LEONE	661		
 BRAZIL	2	 IRAQ	1949	 SINGAPORE	2		
 BULGARIA	26	 JORDAN	271	 SOLOMON IS.	368	JUL	516
 BURKINA FASO	164	 KENYA	4093	 SOMALIA	332	AUG	700
 BURUNDI	24	 KIRIBATI	338	 SOMALILAND	160	SEPT	
 CAMBODIA	1433	 LAOS	90	 SOUTH AFRICA	123	OCT	
 CAMEROON	1	 LEBANON	673	 SOUTH KOREA	20	NOV	
 CANADA	2	 LIBERIA	181	 SRI LANKA	2209	DEC	
 CHINA (TOTAL)	1746	 LIBYA	340	 SUDAN	62	JAN	
 HONG KONG	1	 MADAGASCAR	76	 SYRIA	507	FEB	
 COOK ISLANDS	5	 MALAWI	3388	 TAIWAN	50	MAR	
 D.R. OF CONGO	1072	 MALAYSIA	7	 TANZANIA	3620	APR	
 EGYPT	665	 MALDIVES	4	 THAILAND	338	MAY	
 EL SALVADOR	1	 MAURITANIA	75	 TIMOR LESTE	1156	JUN	
 ETHIOPIA	100	 MAURITIUS	438	 TONGA	16	TOTAL	1216
 FIJI (TOTAL)	857	 MOLDOVA	40	 TUVALU	6		
 BA	2	 MONGOLIA	1256	 UGANDA	2666		
 NADI	8	 MOROCCO	1635	 UKRAINE (TOTAL)	105		
 ONO - I - LAU	10	 MOZAMBIQUE	439	 CHERNIVTSI	25		
 SAVU SAVU	40	 MYANMAR	3515	 CHERNOBYL	60		
 SUVA	630	 NAURU	10	 USA	2		

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MinterEllison.



John & Jan
Hugan



Bill & Eileen
Doyle



Cost Update – Adjusta Wheelchair

From 1 July, Wheelchairs For Kids Australia has increased the cost of building a complete Adjusta Wheelchair from \$275 to \$300.

This small rise reflects the increasing cost of raw materials and freight. We continue to work closely with suppliers to keep costs as low as possible. This figure covers materials only, thanks to WFKA's incredible volunteers who make the gift of mobility so affordable.

Your donation helps build a better life.

Your support funds the materials needed to create life-changing wheelchairs. Whether you help cover the cost of a single part or an entire wheelchair, your contribution brings mobility and independence to children.

- > **\$30** - Tray, basket and accessories
- > **\$55** - Cushions, padding and supports
- > **\$85** - Chassis and wheels
- > **\$130** - Frames, brakes and footrests
- > **\$300** - A complete Adjusta Wheelchair

1. Consider making a **bequest in your will**.
This generous form of support has been a great benefit to us.
2. Visit our website to **donate online** at www.wheelchairsforkids.org
3. **By electronic transfer** to BSB: 016 494, ACCOUNT: 425 457 815 and please email your amount, name and address for us to correctly receipt your generosity.
4. **Donate online** by scanning the QR code at right.



New Hope for Shaff

Welcoming a first child is always a special joy, and for Zione and her husband in Kwonora Village, Malawi, the arrival of baby Shaff in 2015 was a moment of pure happiness. But that joy turned quickly to heartache when, just weeks later, Shaff was diagnosed with cerebral malaria which affected his brain and left him unable to walk, speak properly or play like other children.

Life was a daily challenge, with his parents caring for his every need. But everything changed when World Vision, through its Gift in Kind program, donated a WFKA wheelchair.

Now Shaff plays with friends, gets to school on his own and even kicks the football with his mom. The wheelchair has brought new hope to the whole family.



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