

## Dreams can come true

This is a story of a little girl who dreamt of seeing the sun and going to school.

Umulkhayr Ahmed Abdillahi is a 4 year old girl who lives in Masallaha area, near the airport in Hargeisa, Somaliland. She is the elder of two girls. Her mother is a house-wife and her father works in a garage in Hargeisa. Umulkhayr was diagnosed with cerebral palsy having been born through a complicated labour and with oxygen shortage at birth.

She was assessed at Hargeisa Rehab Centre run by Diversity Action Network – a local non-governmental organization, supported by Australian Doctors for Africa, and prescribed with physiotherapy treatment and a corner seat to help her gain a sitting position.

When next she was brought to the rehab services a reassessment recommended a wheelchair. Wheelchairs for children are often unavailable in Somaliland, but fortunately, the Australia based “Wheelchairs for Kids” donated wheelchairs to Somaliland through



Australian Doctors for Africa and one of these wheelchairs was able to be fitted to meet Umulkhayr’s needs. The family has been trained in how to maintain and make the best use of the wheelchair.

Before the wheelchair, Umulkhayr remained lying in her room without movement and unable even to go

out to enjoy the sun. The family has expressed their gratitude with her mother saying that she will take her to the local school in the future.

*Provided by Diversity Action Network, Somaliland, September 2022.*

*Wheelchairs were donated by Wheelchairs for Kids Australia and delivered to Somaliland by Australian Doctors for Africa, August 2022.*



## Inspiration

Makmak was born in the Philippines without legs and with only one arm. He had to stop schooling for some years because he did not have a wheelchair.

However, he managed to graduate with honours despite his physical limitations. His disability is no

hindrance to his attempts at reaching for his dreams.

He is now 20 years old

*Story from Ms Analou Suan (Strategic Alliance for Networking on Disability – STAND ) Mindanao, Philippines.*

# UPDATE – CEO Greg Hebble

Yes, our Drill has had a bit of a “makeover” and although it may look a little different, fortunately for us we still have a heap of great success stories to share with you.

It never ceases to amaze me the number of generous people and organisations we have that continue giving their time and pledges which of course keep this great organisation moving forward. Some great examples of this are the recent success of our Tax Appeal during June and early July, where we saw donors come forward to help build more wheelchairs and some of those coming back after a couple of years’ break, some for the first time and others generously giving more than in previous years. Thanks again for your continued support.

I’m very happy to report that the Board signed off on our budget to align with our first year of the 2023-26 Strategic Plan. Also thanks again to Pauline Holbeck and the Team from AON in assisting us in finalising our new insurance policies for the current financial year.

Another great example of our local communities assisting us when we need them the most, was during

our shopping centre displays at the Whitfords centre in June and again in August but on this occasion it was in the Karrinyup centre. Thanks to John Jeffery and his team of volunteers for ensuring these events were so successful.

We were also very fortunate in July to have David McPherson, Rotary Past District Governor D9790 (2022-23) and his twin children Lily & Liam visit both the team at our Wangara factory and the members at the Rotary Club of Scarborough. Not only did they visit but, as a result of David’s District Governors partner program in his district in Victoria, David, Lily & Liam presented us with a cheque for the incredible amount of \$54,811.51. We are enormously grateful that David, Lily & Liam chose WFKA as their beneficiary but also to the Rotary Clubs and individuals in their district for the very generous support.

For those of you that don’t know, 27 years ago the Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise in Queensland approached us to take on the project of manufacturing a wheelchair out of recycled bicycle parts and that is what our very first model was made



of. However, our team of volunteers back then felt that this model was not sustainable and proceeded to design and manufacture a series of different models over the next 27 years. However, to give us the support to achieve this, we were heavily supported by the RC of Surfers Sunrise and without this financial support we would not be where we are today. In late August I had the privilege of visiting the RC of Surfers Sunrise and during this visit we discussed the possibility of working closer together over the coming years. I’m assuming that there is a strong possibility that they might be distributing some of our chairs with their Wheelchairs Across The World.



L to R: Lily, Liam, CEO Greg Hebble and David McPherson

# Bali – Ketut’s Story



Ketut is 13 years old she lives in a small village in North Bali, east of Singaraja. Ketut was born with the genetic disorder Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bone disease) and will never be able to walk.

In 2017 her parents tried to enrol her at the local primary school but

were informed she would only be able to attend if she had a suitable wheelchair. They contacted The Department of Social Services in Singaraja to ask for help and Global Village Foundation provided her with a Wheelchairs for Kids Australia wheelchair.

For the 6 years that Ketut attended the primary school she was the No.1 student in a class of 35 students.

Her new WFKA wheelchair has been in constant use since and has opened the world up to young Ketut.

A new WFKA wheelchair was gifted to Ketut in late 2022 in time for her to attend her new Elementary School. The school installed wheelchair ramps and a disability-access toilet specifically for Ketut. At the present time she is the only wheelchair user attending the school.

In late 2022 Ketut was nominated to appear on the national Indonesian television show ‘MIMPI JADI NYATA’ (translated; Dreams come true) On the show she sang a song and was interviewed by the hosts. Asked what her dream was, she said that she hoped one day her father would own a motorcycle with a small trailer that would accommodate her wheelchair so that she could get to her new school (2 kms away) much easier. The TV show granted her wish.

Ketut now gets to school much quicker and has many days out with her family and friends.

She hopes to go on to University and eventually teach English to business people and government officials on a one to one basis.

Ketut’s life has been truly transformed since she received her first WFKA wheelchair

*Global Village Foundation*

## Our Valuable Partners

**JHY Realty** are a boutique real estate company specialising in the Southwest of Western Australia, predominantly servicing the areas of Dunsborough, Yallingup, Eagle Bay and Quindalup; we also extend North to Abbey and Port Geographe as well as South as far as Margaret River.

Directors Eloise Jennings, Andrew Hopkins, Lee York and Tenniel Harman-York have worked together since 2004 and officially became partners in JHY Realty in 2009.

A brainstorm at one of our regular directors’ meetings back in 2011 had us searching for a suitable organisation to support on a regular basis.

We had always supported local sporting clubs and organisations, such as the Dunsborough Sharks football club and local artists, but wanted to find a way to impact those

less fortunate than most in our local community.

We wanted to give back from our entire organisation, something everyone in our team could feel proud to be a part of.

It was our receptionist at the time who researched and found ‘Wheelchairs for Kids’ and we couldn’t believe that such a modest cash donation could provide not only an all-terrain wheelchair direct to a child in need anywhere in the world, but also with the caring delivery and appropriate occupational therapy fitting required to ensure optimal support.

It was a “No Brainer” for us, and with the support of our fellow sales representative Ken Jennings we began deducting the cost of a wheelchair directly from the commission of every sale we conduct.



*Paul Harris Fellowship honours from RC*

We are able to extend the gratitude we have for all the Rotarians and volunteers associated with Wheelchairs for Kids to the buyers and sellers of the associated properties, which in turn helps spread the word about this amazing organisation.

Since our initial contribution back in 2011 we are honoured to say, with the support of our clients, we have been able to provide funding for over 1,050 wheelchairs.



*Lee York Director JHY Realty*

# Orange Sky and Wheelchairs For Kids Australia Combine to Help Those in Need



Rob Naughton and Dot Ammerer, residents in Kingsway Court Brightwater Retirement Village, are volunteers at two charities both dedicated to helping those in need.

Rob has been with *Orange Sky* since 2016 and with the help of two vans, supported by Woodside and Watercorp, helps to provide clean clothes, safe warm showers and regular positive connection with people doing it tough on the streets. This charity also provides a doctor's van, hot food, fruit and coffee to scores of needy people.

Dot has been with *Wheelchairs For Kids Australia* since 2014 and helps to prepare the gift packs of soft toys and colourful blankets to accompany the all-terrain adjustable wheelchairs manufactured in their Wangara factory and donated to children living with disability in under-resourced countries. Over 56,000 children have received one of these wheelchairs along with the soft toy and a knitted, crocheted or

quilted rug since the charity began in 1996.

Recently, for the first time in its history, the donated supply of soft toys was close to drying up so *Wheelchairs For Kids Australia's* CEO, Greg Hebble, appealed for help on their Facebook page. The response was overwhelming and thousands of soft toys arrived at the factory which needed to be sorted and washed.

Rob responded to this appeal by contacting Dot and volunteering to take his van to the factory and, with the help of his offsider, Joy Hosken, do a few loads of washing. Both charities benefited greatly from this help as, not only was the heavy task set for Dot and her co-volunteers lightened, but, as some donated items were not suitable for use by *Wheelchairs For Kids Australia*, they were washed and passed over to *Orange Sky* to distribute amongst its clientele.



## St. Stephen's School Duncraig: Wheelchair Sports for Wheelchairs For Kids

On Monday, July 31, four volunteers from Wheelchairs For Kids in Wangara visited St. Stephen's School in Duncraig at the request of their community fundraising team.

A group of four girls had arranged wheelchair sports for the House of Carana year to experience what life is like in a wheelchair.

The event was coordinated by Fundraising Coordinators Jessica Pendlebury, Nathasha Ruiz, Madison Graessoin and Sara Micevski. This was the fourth event in their fundraising efforts for Wheelchairs For Kids following on from the successful Free Dress Day, Bake Sale and Sports Activities held earlier in the year. They have raised \$1084.60 in total so far - an amazing effort.

Prior to the event, the coordinators spoke at the House Assembly, enticing the students to get involved and have fun.

When asked her opinion of the experience, Jessica said that it was such a challenging but extremely rewarding

experience. With support from Wheelchairs For Kids, the event was a success and overall she was pleased with the way it ran. By helping to grant the world's most vulnerable children a renewed sense of hope and independence, Jessica said this experience was very memorable and she was "happy to help such a great cause."



# Volunteers working to produce the next consignment of wheelchairs



Andrew Kelly



Chris Colbey



David Gomes



Dean Wall



Rob Heintz (left) & Tom Nalpon (right)



Russell Whiting



Jean Ross Adjie (left) & Joy Angerson (right)



Ken Broadhurst



Craig Hatch (left) & Richard Hennessy (right)



Tim Dawson

## News from WFKA East Coast

### Wheelchair Wheelathon Kingswood Primary School Dingley Village

The Rotary Club of Noble Park-Dingley sponsor and actively support an EarlyAct Club at Kingswood Primary School and the EarlyAct Club Committee ran a Wheelchair Wheelathon as an International project for their school. The school has six hundred students and we were able to handle the large number in one day as this was the first time the East Coast team had two wheelchair trailers available and forty wheelchairs for the students to experience. The event was run



across two asphalt basketball courts on 14th June and the EarlyAct club provided a briefing to each year level as they came out to participate in the event, on the importance of raising funds to assist children in less fortunate circumstances living in overseas countries. The cost of seven wheelchairs was raised.

### Foundation Learning Centre Narra Warren

Students from Foundation Learning Centre's Peninsula Campus have been raising money for Wheelchairs for Kids Australia as part of their Certificate II in Community Services Course. FLC provides learning of "life skills" for students who are in the later stage of secondary education.

The students study a unit called "Be an Effective Volunteer which requires them to participate in 20 hours hands-on voluntary work during their course. Grant Klaaysen, a member of the East Coast team, made a presentation to the students in June and showed them a WFKA wheelchair and encouraged them to support.



Their teacher Kristen recently provided the following update: "FLC students are undertaking a range of activities, including starting up a "Shout for Good" web page, a sausage sizzle, and a wheelchair-related activity to raise funds for the organisation. To date, \$550 has been raised and the project has only just begun"!

### Presentations to Victorian Rotary Clubs

In June/July the Victorian activities were boosted by significant support from Melbourne Rotary Clubs:

A presentation in June made to Rotary Club of Monash resulted in a donation from the club to cover six wheelchairs.

In July a presentation to Rotary Club of Emerald has also resulted in donations from members of the club to cover six wheelchairs. In June/July Rotary Club of Central Murray Sunrise in Yarrawonga continued their regular support of WFK by attracting donations totalling from local people and businesses covering a further six wheelchairs.

### Wheelchairs for Kids Australia 10 years service awards

Rotary members in many Victorian Rotary Clubs are supporters of WFKA but two who have provided extraordinary continual support were recently recognised by these awards.

WFKA CEO Greg Hebble was in Melbourne at the end of May for the Rotary International Convention and personally presented Russell Hayes with his award during a presentation Greg made to Women's Friendship Group in inner suburban Melbourne. During July, Greg presented the award recognising the long term commitment of Peter Klaaysen to WFKA during a Zoom connected meeting with Rotary Club of Casey where Peter had been a much loved member. The photo shows Peter's family with Denise holding the certificate and Grant on her left. Grant is a member of the same Rotary Club and continues Peter's work for WFKA.

Russell acknowledged the particular achievement of the East Coast team with Peter setting up the first Wheelchair Wheelathon at Mentone Grammar more than ten years ago which was a surprising success in raising just on \$10,000. Since that time the Wheelathons have been run at many school locations and provide an avenue for primary school children to demonstrate compassion for children in need living in less fortunate circumstances.



# Wheelchairs dispatched since 1996

AFGHANISTAN	1
ALBANIA	40
ANGOLA	50
ARMENIA	302
AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	28
COCOS IS.	1
BANGLADESH	671
BELARUS	131
BHUTAN	8
BORNEO	340
BOSNIA	100
BOTSWANA	1
BRAZIL	2
BULGARIA	25
BURKINA FASO	164
BURUNDI	24
CAMBODIA	1265
CAMEROON	1
CANADA	2
CHINA	1745
COOK ISLANDS	5
D.R. OF CONGO	1072
EGYPT	665
EL SALVADOR	1
ETHIOPIA	100
FIJI (TOTAL)	690
BA	2
NADI	8
ONO - I - LAU	10
SAVU SAVU	40
SUVA	630
GHANA	234
GUINEA	1
INDIA	368
INDONESIA (TOTAL)	3904
BALI	2516
FLORES IS.	20

JAVA	785
LOMBOK	547
SALATIGA	8
SUMATRA	28
IRAN	22
IRAQ	1949
JORDAN	271
KENYA	3081
KIRIBATI	338
LAOS	90
LEBANON	673
LIBERIA	181
LIBYA	340
MADAGASCAR	76
MALAWI	2544
MALAYSIA	7
MALDIVES	4
MAURITANIA	75
MAURITIUS	271
MOLDOVA	40
MONGOLIA	938
MOROCCO	1315
MOZAMBIQUE	439
MYANMAR	3175
NAURU	10
NEPAL	352
NIGERIA	456
PAKISTAN	848
PALESTINE - GAZA	656
PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2225
BOUGAINVILLE	6
PERU	2
PHILIPPINES	1790
ROMANIA	132
RWANDA	166
SAMOA	231
SEYCHELLES	60

SIERRA LEONE	495
SINGAPORE	1
SOLOMON IS.	364
SOMALIA	332
SOMALILAND	110
SOUTH AFRICA	123
SOUTH KOREA	20
SRI LANKA	2207
SUDAN	60
SYRIA	507
TAIWAN	50
TANZANIA	2928
THAILAND	338
TIMOR LESTE	1156
TONGA	16
TUVALU	6
UGANDA	2316
UKRAINE (TOTAL) 20	105
CHERNIVTSI	25
CHERNOBYL	60
USA	2
VANUATU	383
VIETNAM	8056
YEMEN	166
ZAMBIA	1684
ZIMBABWE	487

**56,609**

## 2023/2024 Financial Year Dispatch

JUL	183
AUG	506
SEPT	
OCT	
NOV	
DEC	
JAN	
FEB	
MAR	
APR	
MAY	
JUN	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>689</b>



### Major Sponsors:



# A gift can change the life of a child living with a disability as well as the life of every family member.

For \$275 we give each child an adjustable, all terrain, cushioned wheelchair along with an upper body harness, foot restraints, postural support devices for the head, trunk and legs, detachable tray, carry basket, soft toy, colourful knee rugs, tool kit, spare cushioning and spare fasteners.

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, PO Box 1175, Wangara DC, WA 6947.
2. Consider making a **bequest in your will**. This generous form of support has been a great benefit to us.
3. Visit our website to **donate online** at [www.wheelchairsforkids.org](http://www.wheelchairsforkids.org)
4. **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.
  - ◆ All donations, \$2 or more, are tax-deductible.
  - ◆ All donations are used in the production of the wheelchairs.
  - ◆ Overheads (rent, utilities and administration costs) are paid by donations from and in agreement with several Major Sponsors.



SCAN ME TO  
DONATE ONLINE

## Contact Information:

**Address:** 10 Buckingham Drive, Wangara WA 6065

**Postal Address:** PO Box 1175, Wangara DC,  
Western Australia, 6947

**Factory:** +61 8 9409 3633

**Email:** [info@wheelchairsforkids.org](mailto:info@wheelchairsforkids.org)

**ABN:** 436 3877 9405

**ACN:** 638 779 405

**WA Charity Licence:** 20577

**Facebook:** #wheelchairsforkids

**Web:** [wheelchairsforkids.org](http://wheelchairsforkids.org)

**Chief Executive Officer:** Greg Hebble  
[greg.hebble@wheelchairsforkids.org](mailto:greg.hebble@wheelchairsforkids.org)

**Volunteer Factory Manager:** Br. Olly Pickett  
[olly.pickett@wheelchairsforkids.org](mailto:olly.pickett@wheelchairsforkids.org)

**Volunteer Editor:** Bob Sheridan  
[bob.sheridan@wheelchairsforkids.org](mailto:bob.sheridan@wheelchairsforkids.org)

## NEW GUINEA

In September 2016, a group of year eleven students from Melbourne Grammar School, along with nurses, travelled to Pova, Papua New Guinea, taking with them three wheelchairs from Wheelchairs For Kids Australia to be given to children in the Milne Bay area.

With the help of locals a wheelchair was carried on a 90 minute trek to the village where it was assembled and fitted to suit the needs of a young boy named Kennedy.



**Our gratitude to all our supporters on behalf of the children you have helped.**