

Celebrating 60,000th Wheelchair with the WA Premier

On 14 June 2024, Wheelchairs For Kids Australia celebrated a monumental achievement, the production of the 60,000th wheelchair. WA Premier Roger Cook MLA attended the celebration, alongside Tracey Roberts MP, Margaret Quirk MLA, WFKA Patron Graham Edwards AM, as well as valued volunteers, members of Scarborough Rotary Club, suppliers, partners and friends of WFKA.

Remarkably, 60,000 wheelchairs are enough to fill Optus Stadium in Perth.

Premier Cook spoke about the invaluable contributions from the volunteers, most of whom are retirees with a wealth of skills and a passion for giving back. The Premier expressed his admiration and support for the tireless efforts of WFKA's volunteers.

During his visit, Premier Cook met with volunteers, toured the factory



L-R: Syd Elkes, Premier Roger Cook MLA, Greg Hebble and Br. Olly Pickett

and witnessed firsthand the intricate process of wheelchair assembly and packaging.

The Premier acknowledged the 60,000th wheelchair milestone, a symbol of thousands of transformed lives worldwide, each chair representing improved mobility,

newfound opportunities, and restored dignity.

Premier Cook reaffirmed the government's enduring commitment to WFKA. Since 2008, the Government of Western Australia has donated \$916,800 which equals 3667 wheelchairs.

Libby Mettam, WA Liberal Leader joins in Celebration



Libby Mettam and Greg Hebble

Libby Mettam MLA, the WA Liberal Leader, accompanied by Donna Faragher MLC, shared in the celebration of the 60,000th wheelchair made by WFKA volunteers. They were visibly impressed by the scale of the operations and the incredible efforts by the volunteers.

Arriving on a particularly bustling day, they witnessed firsthand, volunteers unloading essential stock from a 40-foot container. Libby expressed her admiration for the volunteer's commitment, and acknowledging the significant impact they have on children's lives.

Libby enjoyed morning tea with the volunteers, engaging in heartfelt conversations about their experiences and challenges. Her genuine interest and appreciation made her visit a memorable occasion for all.

Pledging ongoing support, Libby emphasised the importance of WFKA in the community. Her visit reinforced the collaborative spirit needed to support vulnerable children.

UPDATE – CEO Greg Hebble

Dear Wheelchairs For Kids Australia Community,

Time has flown by and it's time for another newsletter! We're excited to share some remarkable updates with you.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredibly generous donors who made our recent Tax Appeal a resounding success. Your support has set us on the path to reach our ambitious goal of providing 6,000 wheelchairs annually within the next two years!

This past quarter, we faced significant delays in receiving parts from China, which unfortunately slowed our wheelchair production in July. However, thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers, we're now back on track, producing an impressive 25 wheelchairs per day.



L-R: Tim Dawson, Craig Hutch, Hon. Don Punch MLA, Olly Pickett and Tom Ravenscroft

In May, Minister Don Punch visited our factory during National Volunteer Week. He was amazed by the scale of our facility and the dedication of our 250 volunteers. We appreciate his visit and look forward to future collaborations.

Also in May, our Chairman, Jim Joseph, and I attended the Rotary International Convention in Singapore. We had our own stand at the five day event, where we connected with over 250



Greg Hebble, Ineke Oliver and Jim Joseph

Rotary clubs from 43 countries. Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Scarborough for their steadfast support over the past 27 years.

In this edition, we're thrilled to announce that we've manufactured our 60,000th wheelchair! Supporters, partners, and Premier Roger Cook joined us in celebrating this incredible milestone. Stay tuned—our next milestone is just around the corner.

I recently accompanied our volunteer Occupational Therapist, Lois Moir to Angeles City in the Philippines for five days of intensive wheelchair training and fitting. The RSL Club of Angeles City has been fitting our wheelchairs for the past decade, making a significant impact on local children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

During our visit, Lois provided three days of comprehensive training for the team, ensuring proper fitting

and regular distribution. We had the privilege of fitting seven children with new wheelchairs, including four from a local orphanage. This experience highlighted the profound difference our work makes in the lives of these children and their families.

Together, we're making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Cheers, Greg



National Volunteer Week - May 20th to 26th, 2024

Wheelchairs For Kids Australia shone a spotlight on the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers. This annual celebration serves as a reminder of the immense impact volunteers have and offers a platform to express gratitude and thanks.

Volunteering is at the heart of WFKA, where so many generously give their time and expertise. Volunteers are essential for the future development of WFKA.

We welcomed several distinguished guests, the Hon. Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development, Disabilities, Fisheries, Seniors & Ageing, Volunteering, along with Tracey Roberts MP, Federal Member for Pearce, and Margaret Quirk MLA.

This visit marked Minister Punch's first trip to the WFKA Wangara factory. Br. Olly Pickett guided the guests on a comprehensive tour, showcasing the factory's impressive organisation and the seamless efficiency of the wheelchair production system. Minister Punch was particularly fascinated by the puzzle-like method used to pack the wheelchairs into boxes, reflecting the ingenuity and dedication of the volunteers.

The Minister expressed deep admiration for the volunteers' efforts, noting how profoundly moving it was to see them working tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals they may never meet.

The day concluded with nachos and chips, generously provided by Chips on a Stick, thanks to Ams Bhudia and her family.

Beyond expressing thanks, National Volunteer Week hopefully inspires people to get involved and make a difference, WFKA hopes to encourage more people to join and contribute their time and talents.

Volunteering boosts mental health by providing a sense of purpose, reducing feelings of isolation, while building social connections. It also enhances self-esteem, combats depression, keeping the mind and body active.

If you are interested in Volunteering at Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, please feel free to contact us directly.



Greg Hebble, John Moore and Hon. Don Punch MLA



Kate Magnay, Hon. Don Punch MLA, Tracey Roberts MP, Sue Crockett, Margaret Quirk MLA and Br. Olly Pickett



Chips on a Stick



Vale - Andy Borland

Andy Borland, a dedicated volunteer from 2013 to 2024.

Andy's commitment and passion for helping others left a lasting impact on WFKA. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him

Friends - L-R: Joe McKenna, Carl Lang and Andy Borland

Service Above Self

The Rotary Club of Scarborough has been a key supporter of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia since its inception, providing the crucial startup funding and guidance. Gordon Hudson, in particular, who served as CEO of WFKA from 1998 to 2021, helped shape the organisation into what it is today.

Founded in 1956 under the Rotary motto "Service Above Self," the Rotary Club of Scarborough has been deeply engaged in both the Scarborough area and broader community. As part of a global network of neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers, Rotary members work together to create lasting change locally and globally.

In its early years, Rotary Club of Scarborough played a pivotal role in establishing the Police and Citizens Youth Club and partnered with the Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club to



Tom Nalpon and Gordon Hudson

secure premises and donate the first rescue rowing boat, "Miss Rotary." The Club also initiated tree planting projects in schools and launched a district public speaking contest.

Internationally, Rotary Club of Scarborough funded water and

Scarborough
Rotary
Club



sanitation projects, built school rooms in Indonesia and supported an annual youth exchange program since 1963. To commemorate the state's 150th anniversary and Rotary's 75th the Club constructed the Scarborough Clock Tower.

Rotary Club of Scarborough has also been a major contributor to the Rotary Foundation in the fight to eradicate polio. The club outfitted a secondhand bus for eye surgery in Bali, aiding in the training of local surgeons, restoring sight to thousands.

From providing wheelchairs to children with disabilities to supporting local youth, Rotary Club of Scarborough is committed to enhancing lives and fostering positive change.

Rotary International Convention – Singapore 2024

In May 2024, representatives from the Rotary Club of Scarborough, Western Australia, along with Greg Hebble, CEO of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, and WFKA Chairman Jim Joseph, attended the Rotary International Convention in Singapore showcasing their signature WFKA project, ongoing since 1998.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Jurong Town, the team enjoyed warm hospitality. The event was bustling



with Rotarians from around the world, providing an excellent platform to highlight the global impact of Rotary initiatives.

Jim and Greg manned the WFKA booth, raising awareness, reconnecting with familiar Rotarians and forming new bonds. They engaged with humanitarian groups receiving praise for the Adjusta Wheelchair, made by WFKA volunteers.

Paul, who collaborates with Mama Respond in Kenya, and Dina, from the Rotary Club of Mt. Apo in the Philippines, both commended the wheelchair's impact on mobility-impaired children globally.

To date, the Rotary Club of Scarborough and WFKA have delivered over 60,000 Adjusta wheelchairs to children in under resourced countries, with the World

Health Organisation endorsing the wheelchairs for their suitability in rough terrains.



Jim Joseph and Greg Hebble

60,000 Life Changing Moments



On Friday, June 14, 2024, Wheelchairs For Kids Australia celebrated the production of the 60,000th wheelchair. We reflected on all the lives that have been positively impacted since WFKA started in 1998. WA Premier Roger Cook MLA, our esteemed Patron Graham Edwards AM, dedicated volunteers and honoured guests joined in celebrating this significant milestone.



Transforming lives since 1998

Let's look back at how this journey began.

Established in 1998, WFKA started after Queensland Rotarian Des LaRance visited Fiji and saw the urgent need to help children living with disabilities. Initially, wheelchairs were made using old bicycle parts and plywood.

Realising the need for a more efficient solution, the Rotary Club of Scarborough sought the expertise of Brother Olly Pickett, who at the time ran a steel workshop for youth who had left mainstream schooling.

Br. Olly Pickett with the help of Bob Sheridan and Beppie de Kuyer, designed and manufactured a more practical wheelchair using readily available materials. The first batch of 20 wheelchairs were sent to Fiji, laying the foundation for WFKA.

Today, WFKA operates with the support of over 250 factory volunteers, alongside countless others who sew accessories, knit blankets, and Occupational

Therapists who assist in fitting wheelchairs to meet the unique needs of each child.

Central to this is "The Adjusta," wheelchair. Designed in 2010, it is the 9th Model, designed by a team of volunteers who followed the guidelines of the World Health Organisation. This all-terrain wheelchair is fully customisable to each child's specific needs.

Volunteers, predominantly retirees, manufacture, assemble and pack the wheelchairs before they are dispatched worldwide.

Supported by generous donors, long time partners and suppliers, WFKA has distributed over 60,000 wheelchairs to children in more than 90 countries, bringing hope, smiles and brighter futures to children living with disabilities.



Pat Gallagher



John and Dianne Passmore

40,000th
2 March

2018

60,000th
14 June

2024



Daksha Patel, Eileen Haines and Jashu Dabasia

We listen, we care, we give, to children living with



Pearl and Denis Colley



David Rushton, Roger Walsh, Paul Tonz



Listen to Br. Olly Pickett's radio interview on Sunshine FM

<https://youtu.be/wOE5od9DnsY>



10,000th
February 2007



2011

20,000th
September

2015

30,000th
18 February

2021

50,000th
23 August



John and Nanette Moore



Br. Olly Pickett, Premier Roger Cook, Greg Hebble and Jim Joseph



Steve Pratt



Global Village Foundation changes lives in Bali

Global Village Foundation was established in 2013 and is based in North Bali, where work supports those living with severe disabilities and the disadvantaged.

Global Village Foundation and WFKA have been working together to get wheelchairs to those in need. WFKA has sent over 4234 wheelchairs to Indonesia with 2516 going to Bali.

Felicia, lives in Denpasar, South Bali with her family, she was diagnosed with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS), a rare genetic condition that affects growth and development and can cause severe intellectual disabilities.

In June, the Global Village Foundation team travelled to South Bali to provide Felicia with her very first adjustable, custom fitted wheelchair from WFKA. Felicia laughed and giggled as her chair was fitted.

This new wheelchair will significantly impact her family's life. Felicia, her mother and her brother, who has Down syndrome, can now venture outside and enjoy open spaces together.



Linda McAllister, Beppie De Kuyser and Brad Caudwell

For the past three years, the Global Village Foundation has sponsored Komang, a bright and clever young boy, ensuring he receives an education. Living with a progressive disability, Komang was provided with an adjustable wheelchair from WFKA. This wheelchair allows him to participate in all activities, including sports, alongside his peers. As the only child at the school who uses a wheelchair, the school has happily adapted to ensure Komang feels included. Thanks to the support from the Global Village Foundation and his dedicated teachers, Komang can fully engage in school life.



News from WFKA East Coast

Wheelathon Tintern Grammar School Ringwood East

The WFKA East Coast team visits Tintern Grammar School in Ringwood East every two years. On 17th May, we held our fifth wheelathon at the school. The funds raised were enough to cover the cost of 35 wheelchairs.



Wheelathon Beverley Hills Primary School Doncaster East

On 5th June, Beverley Hills Primary, with 800 students held a wheelathon. The event raised enough to fund 23 wheelchairs, 3 funded by the sausage sizzle

organised by the Rotary Club of Manningham City. The EarlyAct Club at the school oversaw the event.

At the start of the new term, the school was presented with Certificate of Appreciation from WFKA, along with three certificates for the grades that raised the highest amounts.

Wheelathon Albert Street Primary School Moe

Albert Street Primary School, with 130 students, set a goal of raising \$2,750 to fund 10 wheelchairs. The junior school leaders organised fundraising activities, including face



painting, hair braiding, cake stalls and a sausage sizzle. They even secured a TV news segment on the local WIN TV. Their efforts surpassed the target, resulting in enough funds to provide 14 wheelchairs.

Rotary Club Major Events

The East Coast team assisted the Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise to run their annual Businessmen's Golf Day where WFKA received a donation of \$12,500 equalling 45 wheelchairs from the profits on the day.

The Rotary Club of Casey held their annual Holland Festival on 27th April, the event was relocated indoors to the Caribbean Gardens Event Centre in Scoresby, offering over two acres of covered space. This change proved highly successful, attracting 9,000 attendees in a single day. The WFKA East Coast team volunteered with setup and marshalling. From the event's profits, the club generously donated \$10,000, funding 36 wheelchairs.



Orthopaedic Training Centre Ghana

In November 2019 and early 2023, WFKA East Coast coordinated two shipments of 40ft containers, with medical equipment from Donations In Kind Footscray, each including 24 WFKA wheelchairs. The Orthopaedic Training Centre, Ghana's primary disability center, is managed by Sister Elizabeth Newman, who began volunteering there 50 years ago and now leads the center.

Recently, we arranged for Mia Jurcevic from Melbourne to spend time volunteering at the Orthopaedic Centre, gaining valuable work

experience as she pursues her Physiotherapy qualification. Mia is the granddaughter of Helen Jurcevic, who has led the Women's Friendship Group in Melbourne for 18 years. The group donates knitted rugs and bears to accompany the wheelchairs as well as generous annual contributions.

Arranging this work experience for Mia has been a pleasure, and the photos clearly show how much she enjoys helping the disabled children at the OTC.

The First Drill

The first issue of The Drill was released on September 15, 2004, by editor Bob Sheridan. Volunteers arriving at the factory ready to work would ask, "What's the drill?" - meaning, "What's happening today? What do you want me to do?" Thus, the name The Drill stuck.

The Drill was initially created to facilitate communication within the factory. As the number of volunteers grew, it became challenging to share information with everyone, making a regular newsletter essential.

Originally intended solely for the volunteers, The Drill is now being seen worldwide. It has evolved far beyond just production and safety updates. The Drill shares heartwarming stories of children receiving their wheelchairs, highlights the efforts of our dedicated volunteers and features our generous partners, donors and supporters from corporate to craft clubs.

The Drill is continuously evolving into something much greater than initially anticipated. Thank you, Bob Sheridan, for starting something truly special.



Bob Sheridan

Milling Masters

Let's take a moment to appreciate and thank the volunteers in the Machine Room. While the Rug Room's cute teddies and comfy blankets often steals the spotlight, it's important to highlight the contributions from the machine room, their hard work and expertise ensure that the wheelchairs are built to the highest standards.

Although known as a noisy section in the factory, their expertise is crucial. Using CNC milling machines to create various wheelchair components from aluminium bar angle, and plate stock, producing consistently accurate parts. These machines ensure a high-quality finish, vital for the reliability and safety of our wheelchairs.

The volunteers' meticulous work is key to WFKA's success. Their skills, knowledge and commitment are indispensable.

HBF Run For A Reason 2024

A heartfelt thank you to the Wheelchairs For Kids Australia volunteers and supporters who participated in the annual HBF Run For A Reason. Special thanks to Br. Olly Pickett, who tackled the challenging task of bringing the wheelchairs into Perth City and finding parking for a Ute and large trailer. Well done on securing a good spot.

It was a beautiful sunny day, filled with excitement as competitors gathered at the starting line. The Adjusta all-terrain wheelchairs were effortlessly pushed along the course by volunteers, family and friends. The enthusiasm and support from everyone involved made for a special event.



Daksha Patel and Marie Cocks



Bevan Joyce, Richard Payne and Richard Kempen

Wheelchairs dispatched since 1996

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|----------|------|
| AFGHANISTAN | 1 | GHANA | 234 | NIGERIA | 456 | VANUATU | 383 |
| ALBANIA | 40 | GUINEA | 1 | PAKISTAN | 848 | VIETNAM | 8218 |
| ANGOLA | 50 | INDIA | 368 | PALESTINE - GAZA | 656 | YEMEN | 166 |
| ARMENIA | 302 | INDONESIA (TOTAL) | 4234 | PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL) | 2225 | ZAMBIA | 2024 |
| AUSTRALIA (TOTAL) | 28 | BALI | 2516 | BOUGAINVILLE | 6 | ZIMBABWE | 487 |
| COCOS IS. | 1 | FLORES IS. | 20 | PERU | 2 | | |
| BANGLADESH | 671 | JAVA | 1465 | PHILIPPINES | 2050 | | |
| BELARUS | 131 | LOMBOK | 547 | ROMANIA | 132 | | |
| BHUTAN | 8 | SALATIGA | 8 | RWANDA | 166 | | |
| BORNEO | 340 | SUMATRA | 28 | SAMOA | 231 | | |
| BOSNIA | 100 | IRAN | 22 | SEYCHELLES | 60 | | |
| BOTSWANA | 1 | IRAQ | 1949 | SIERRA LEONE | 661 | | |
| BRAZIL | 2 | JORDAN | 271 | SINGAPORE | 1 | | |
| BULGARIA | 25 | KENYA | 3421 | SOLOMON IS. | 368 | | |
| BURKINA FASO | 164 | KIRIBATI | 338 | SOMALIA | 332 | | |
| BURUNDI | 24 | LAOS | 90 | SOMALILAND | 160 | | |
| CAMBODIA | 1267 | LEBANON | 673 | SOUTH AFRICA | 123 | | |
| CAMEROON | 1 | LIBERIA | 181 | SOUTH KOREA | 20 | | |
| CANADA | 2 | LIBYA | 340 | SRI LANKA | 2207 | | |
| CHINA | 1746 | MADAGASCAR | 76 | SUDAN | 60 | | |
| HONG KONG | 1 | MALAWI | 3048 | SYRIA | 507 | | |
| COOK ISLANDS | 5 | MALAYSIA | 7 | TAIWAN | 50 | | |
| D.R. OF CONGO | 1072 | MALDIVES | 4 | TANZANIA | 3268 | | |
| EGYPT | 665 | MAURITANIA | 75 | THAILAND | 338 | | |
| EL SALVADOR | 1 | MAURITIUS | 272 | TIMOR LESTE | 1156 | | |
| ETHIOPIA | 100 | MOLDOVA | 40 | TONGA | 16 | | |
| FIJI (TOTAL) | 857 | MONGOLIA | 1092 | TUVALU | 6 | | |
| BA | 2 | MOROCCO | 1635 | UGANDA | 2316 | | |
| NADI | 8 | MOZAMBIQUE | 439 | UKRAINE (TOTAL) | 105 | | |
| ONO - I - LAU | 10 | MYANMAR | 3175 | CHERNIVTSI | 25 | | |
| SAVU SAVU | 40 | NAURU | 10 | CHERNOBYL | 60 | | |
| SUVA | 630 | NEPAL | 353 | USA | 2 | | |

60,432

2024/2025 Financial Year Dispatch

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| JUL | 0 |
| AUG | 506 |
| SEPT | |
| OCT | |
| NOV | |
| DEC | |
| JAN | |
| FEB | |
| MAR | |
| APR | |
| MAY | |
| JUN | |
| TOTAL | 506 |

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WA Charity Licence: 20577

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bob.sheridan@wheelchairsforkids.org



Help Us Keep the Wheels Turning!

We are thrilled to achieve the remarkable milestone of 60,000 wheelchairs distributed to children with mobility challenges! This achievement reflects the incredible support we have received from people like you.

Your generosity of TIME, TALENT & FUNDING have been the driving force behind our success. As we look forward to building even more wheelchairs for kids, we need your continued help to keep the wheels turning.

Make a Special Donation today of \$60 to celebrate 60,000 wheelchairs

(or an amount of your choice). Every dollar raised goes directly towards building wheelchairs.



L-R: Alex Murphy, Br. Olly Pickett, Marc Macollini and Robert Murphy

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 Australia**” and posted to: Wheelchairs For Kids, PO Box 1175, Wangara DC, WA 6947.
2. **By electronic transfer** to BSB 016 494, ACCOUNT 425 457 815 and please email your amount, name and address and we will send a receipt for your generosity.
3. **Donate on line** by scanning the QR code.
4. **Visit our website** to donate online at www.wheelchairsforkids.org
 - 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 for by donations from and in agreement with several Major Sponsors.



SCAN ME TO DONATE ONLINE

Consider leaving WFKA a bequest in your will. Please contact our CEO to find out how.

Please find my Special Donation Celebrating 60,000 Wheelchairs

The easiest way to securely pledge your gift is online via www.wheelchairsforkids.org/donate.

It costs \$275 to assemble a wheelchair for a child.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT OF:

- \$60 \$275
 My choice _____

SUPPORTER DETAILS:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Title | First name | Last Name |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| Street Address | | |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Suburb | State | Postcode |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | |
| Email | Telephone | |

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Mastercard Visa Expiry /

Name on card:

Signature:

Please send me information about leaving a gift in my Will.

Please send your donation to:

Wheelchairs for Kids, PO Box 1175, Wangara DC, WA 6947

All donations of \$2 or over are tax deductible. A receipt will then be sent.

For our Privacy Policy visit www.wheelchairsforkids.org

