

2025 Senior Australian of the Year – Brother Thomas Oliver Pickett

Big congratulations to Brother Olly Pickett for being named the 2025 Senior Australian of the Year in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to Wheelchairs For Kids Australia.

What an incredible achievement for a man whose dedication and heart has touched so many lives.

Brother Olly has been the driving force behind Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, ensuring that children with disabilities around the world receive the gift of mobility.

It was a huge surprise when a group of Brother Olly's former Christian Brothers students from St Patrick's College in Geraldton nominated him for this prestigious award. Former student Dan Cunningham said the class of 1970 submitted Brother Olly's nomination after witnessing his dedication firsthand at the WFKA factory.

When he was named the 2025 Senior Australian of the Year, Brother Olly was both humbled and overwhelmed by the honour. In true Brother Olly spirit, he dedicated the award to the hundreds of volunteers and supporters he has worked with.



Everyone at Wheelchairs For Kids Australia is immensely proud and deeply grateful for Brother Olly's dedication. His wisdom, kindness and generosity have strengthened our mission and made an undeniable impact on the lives of the children and their families.

So, here's to Brother Olly! We couldn't be prouder. Brother Olly's dedication has helped transform over 61,500 lives in over 80 countries, and this award is a well deserved recognition of his incredible impact.

Congratulations, Brother Olly! You're a true legend.



Br. Olly Pickett and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

Watch Br. Olly Pickett's 2025 Senior of the Year award speech



UPDATE – CEO Greg Hebble

The 25th January 2025, will go down as one of the biggest and proudest days in our history. Not only did our very own Br. Olly Pickett receive the title of “2025 Senior Australian of the Year,” but it also shone a bright national light on Wheelchairs For Kids Australia!

As many of us watched the awards in anticipation, the exhilarating and emotional announcement finally came and yes, apparently grown men do cry!

The immediate landscape for both Br. Olly and WFKA has changed, and we are excited about our new opportunities. Most importantly, we are on our way to manufacturing more wheelchairs for more children around the world, especially in developing countries.

It’s also a timely reminder that a wheelchair only costs \$275! The more we make, the more lives we change.



Br. Olly Pickett, Governor General Sam Mostyn AC and Beppie deKuyser

Br. Olly’s new title brought a special visit from the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency, the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC. During her 2+ hour tour, she eagerly engaged with every facet of the organisation and met many of our invaluable volunteers. We thank Her Excellency for her time, enthusiasm and ongoing support. We believe we’ve gained another lifelong advocate!



Dennis Gurney, Patrick Gorman MP and Keith Talbot

In February, we also welcomed Patrick Gorman MP, Federal Member for Perth and Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister. Having met Br. Olly in Canberra, Patrick was delighted to visit Br. Olly on home turf.

Looking ahead, we hope to host the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, and key Foreign Affairs representatives in the lead up to the Federal Election. It’s an exciting time to spread our wings and showcase the incredible work happening in our Wangara factory.

In December, Tony Taylor from Stanton Chase did a fantastic job narrowing down candidates for new

Board Directors. After interviews with Jim and Mike in January, we are close to announcing the appointments.

Also in January, we appointed Reliance Auditing Services as our new auditors and thank Acclaim Accounting (formerly Muntz Partners) for their years of support.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Rotary Club of Scarborough for 27 years of unwavering support. We wouldn’t be where we are today without it.

**Cheers,
Greg**



Janet Holmes a' Court, Br. Olly Pickett, Governor General Sam Mostyn AC, Graham Edwards AM

Deputy Prime Minister tours Wheelchairs For Kids factory

Wheelchairs For Kids Australia welcomed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Richard Marles MP, for a visit to the factory organised by long time supporter and Federal Member for Pearce, MP Tracey Roberts.

Mr. Marles was truly impressed as Brother Olly gave him a comprehensive tour of the factory, showing how the wheelchairs are made from start to finish. Mr. Marles was full of praise recognising the profound work that WFKA does.

It was a fantastic chance to showcase the factory and the inspiring work of the volunteers, while highlighting the lasting impact WFKA has on children with disabilities.



Br. Olly Pickett, Greg Hebble, Deputy PM Richard Marles, Tracey Roberts MP



A bright star

Meet 10 year old Nandin-Erdene, a talented student from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She's not only a top student but also a budding artist who loves to draw and dreams of becoming a doctor.

Until recently, her parents carried her everywhere but everything changed when Nandin-Erdene received her

very first wheelchair. Her mother shared, "We've always carried her because we love her so much, as she grew we realised a wheelchair was necessary but we never imagined she'd have such a beautiful one. We're so thankful"

Now, with her new wheelchair, Nandin-Erdene is ready to chase her dreams with even more confidence and independence!

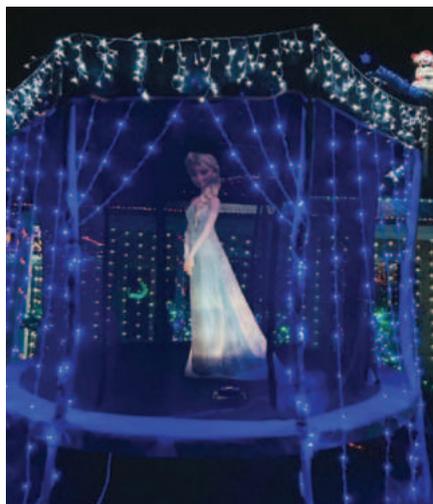
Nandin-Erdene

Samson Court delights

This past December, the Samson Court community in Duncraig lit up with Christmas magic, raising an incredible \$26,784 enough for 97 WFKA wheelchairs.

A heartfelt thank you to the homeowners who transformed their houses into dazzling wonderlands. The musical light display had everyone dancing, carollers filled the air with festive songs and children eagerly posted their Santa wish lists.

WFKA sincerely thanks Jenny Prince and the dedicated volunteers who made this event possible.



Jenny Prince and Phil Gully



A meaningful connection

GTS Gauges is proud to support Wheelchairs For Kids Australia with a partnership that began through a personal connection.

At the funeral of dedicated volunteer Robert (Bob) Dickman, GTS Gauges owner Greg Rankine a longtime friend of Robert's daughter Linda, noticed the sea of blue shirts worn by attendees. Moved by WFKA's remarkable story and volunteer driven mission he was inspired to get involved.

Greg understands the value of volunteers and was eager to support those who dedicate their time to improving the lives of others. At the time GTS Gauges were looking for a meaningful organisation to donate to. GTS Gauges formed a partnership with WFKA and has proudly supported the organisation for the past seven years.

Bob devoted six years to making footplates for the wheelchairs, passionate about his work he often said "Never do by hand what you can get a machine to do " these words still resonate in the factory.

GTS Gauges is an Australian owned industrial instrumentation company based in Midvale, WA. Supplying precision instruments across a range of industries including hydraulics, mining, agriculture, irrigation, generators and auto electrical. Our product range includes pressure,



Greg Rankine, Linda, Br. Olly Pickett

temperature and flow measurement solutions ensuring reliability and accuracy in every application.

At GTS Gauges we take pride in

supporting both industry and the community, helping businesses operate efficiently while contributing to causes that truly make a difference.



Burma's gift of mobility

A 40ft container carrying 340 wheelchairs made the journey of over 6,500 km from the WFKA factory in Wangara WA, to the Thai - Burma border arriving in November 2024.

The Burma Children Medical Fund oversaw the unloading and allocation of the wheelchairs to children. A wheelchair fitting and training program was held in December 2024 to ensure each wheelchair is custom fitted to meet the individual needs of the children.

Burma Children Medical Fund

Beppie deKuyer Toy and Rug Room



For over 27 incredible years, Beppie has been a superstar volunteer at Wheelchairs For Kids Australia

pouring her heart, energy and amazing kindness into transforming the lives of children.

To celebrate her extraordinary legacy and express our deepest gratitude we're thrilled to announce that the WFKA Toy & Rug Room will now be proudly known as the Beppie deKuyer Toy and Rug Room. This heartfelt tribute honours the countless hours Beppie has dedicated across every corner of the factory alongside dear friend, Br Olly.

Much like the lovingly handmade toys and rugs, Beppie's presence brings warmth and comfort to everyone she meets.

Honouring our volunteers - International Volunteer Day

On the 5th December 2024, we came together to celebrate and thank the incredible volunteers of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, who generously give their time and skills to manufacture wheelchairs.

During International Volunteers Week, eight of our volunteers attended a special Volunteer Day Lunch hosted by the Department of Communities WA, alongside Minister Don Punch MLA. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the incredible work volunteers do and the impact they have on the community.

We are deeply grateful for each and every one of our volunteers your dedication and generosity changes lives.



L to R: John & Nanette Moore, Don Kidson, Lyn Amery, Robert Bond, Phil Gully and Jenny Prince



First Aid Training

Safety first

At WFKA safety is a top priority. Volunteers recently participated in a First Aid course held at the factory, gaining practical skills and life saving knowledge. The training covered everything from treating minor cuts to performing CPR.

This comprehensive session ensures that our First Aid volunteers are well prepared to respond effectively to medical emergencies.



Long time volunteer Don Kidson has stepped away from his desk duties and is back on the factory floor, providing hands on training to newcomer Charles Prinsloo.

Don Kidson (L) and Charles Prinsloo

Vale

With heartfelt gratitude, we bid farewell to our dedicated volunteers:

Denis Wall (2000–2018)

Jack Nolan (2016– 2024)

Cliff Turner (2005–2019)

Ketut gets the 60,000th wheelchair

The very excited Ketut was the recipient of our 60,000th wheelchair made at the WFKa factory which was sent to Bali in June 2024 as part of a shipment of 340 to the Global Village Foundation.

Ketut 10, lives in a small village in the hills of North Bali. Born prematurely at just 1kg, he spent his first two months in an incubator. Due to cerebral palsy affecting his legs, he was unable to walk and spent much of his early years bedridden.

Determined to go to school Ketut's father carried him on his back every day. Luckily, they live just 300 meters from the village school. Despite missing his early years of education, Ketut is a fast learner and has already caught up with his classmates. His teachers and friends offer wonderful support making sure he's included in every way.

As Ketut has grown carrying him has become more difficult. The gift of a Wheelchairs For Kids adjustable wheelchair couldn't have come at a better time. Now Ketut has the freedom to move independently and continue chasing his dreams - including going to university one day!



Mobility transforms lives, every wheelchair we provide is a chance for a child like Ketut to access education, build friendships and dream big.

A huge thank you to the Global Village Foundation who have now distributed over 4,000 wheelchairs across Bali and nearby islands.



Joseph's path to school

Joseph, a lively 7-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, lives in a village several hours drive away from Bajawa Flores, Indonesia. Despite the distance his parents were determined to bring him to the wheelchair clinic for his first wheelchair.

Though their home is just 100 meters from the local school, Joseph's

mother shared that the school has been reluctant to accept him due to concerns about potential bullying.

At the clinic, Joseph quickly adapted to his new wheelchair, with occupational therapist Linda McAllister ensuring it was perfectly suited to his needs. Joseph and his mother are now hopeful he can soon join his siblings at school.

Labour of love

Jenny Varcoe, a dedicated member of the Women's Friendship Group has been making patchwork rugs and knitting teddies for the children since 2017.

Jenny began creating quilts during the day and knitting teddies in the evening. Despite a stroke and health challenges in 2023, including the loss of sight in one eye Jenny continues to make quilts and teddies, though at a slower pace.

Her selfless contributions have made a lasting impact, and her dedication to helping others serves as an inspiration to all. We are truly fortunate to have individuals like Jenny in the world.



Jenny and Don Varcoe

Wheelchairs dispatched since 1996

AFGHANISTAN	1	GHANA	234	NIGERIA	456	VANUATU	383
ALBANIA	40	GUINEA	1	PAKISTAN	848	VIETNAM	8054
ANGOLA	50	INDIA	368	PALESTINE - GAZA	656	YEMEN	166
ARMENIA	302	INDONESIA (TOTAL)	4584	PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2225	ZAMBIA	2364
AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	30	BALI	2516	BOUGAINVILLE	6	ZIMBABWE	487
COCOS IS.	1	FLORES IS.	20	PERU	2	<h2>61,632</h2>	
BANGLADESH	671	JAVA	1465	PHILIPPINES	2050		
BELARUS	131	LOMBOK	547	ROMANIA	132	<h2>2024/2025 Financial Year Dispatch</h2>	
BHUTAN	8	SALATIGA	8	RWANDA	166		
BORNEO	340	SUMATRA	28	SAMOA	231	JUL	0
BOSNIA	100	IRAN	22	SEYCHELLES	60	AUG	506
BOTSWANA	1	IRAQ	1949	SIERRA LEONE	661	SEPT	340
BRAZIL	2	JORDAN	271	SINGAPORE	2	OCT	506
BULGARIA	26	KENYA	3927	SOLOMON IS.	368	NOV	340
BURKINA FASO	164	KIRIBATI	338	SOMALIA	332	DEC	166
BURUNDI	24	LAOS	90	SOMALILAND	160	JAN	380
CAMBODIA	1267	LEBANON	673	SOUTH AFRICA	123	FEB	480
CAMEROON	1	LIBERIA	181	SOUTH KOREA	20	MAR	
CANADA	2	LIBYA	340	SRI LANKA	2207	APR	
CHINA	1746	MADAGASCAR	76	SUDAN	60	MAY	
HONG KONG	1	MALAWI	3388	SYRIA	507	JUN	
COOK ISLANDS	5	MALAYSIA	7	TAIWAN	50	TOTAL	2718
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	1256	TUVALU	6		
BA	2	MOROCCO	1635	UGANDA	2316		
NADI	8	MOZAMBIQUE	439	UKRAINE (TOTAL)	105		
ONO - I - LAU	10	MYANMAR	3515	CHERNIVTSI	25		
SAVU SAVU	40	NAURU	10	CHERNOBYL	60		
SUVA	630	NEPAL	353	USA	2		

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Help roll kids toward a brighter future!

For just \$275, you can give a child the freedom to move with a fully adjustable, all-terrain wheelchair - equipped with a harness, foot restraints, postural supports, a detachable tray, carry basket, tool kit, soft toy and knee rug.

Make a difference today!

Your donation helps fund the materials needed to build these life-changing wheelchairs. Whether you sponsor a single part or cover the full cost, your donation goes towards mobility and independence and all crafted by our amazing volunteers.

- > **\$29** - Tray, basket and accessories
- > **\$49** - Cushions, padding and supports
- > **\$79** - Chassis and wheels
- > **\$118** - Frames, brakes and footrests
- > **\$275** - 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.



SCAN ME TO
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Growing independence

Adiya, a lively 10 year old from Mongolia's remote MunkhKhairkhan region, received his first Wheelchairs For Kids wheelchair at age 3, thanks to the Bulgan One Generation Club. After seven years of adventures, he travelled 1500km to Khovd City for a new one.

Now in 3rd grade, Adiya loves zooming around school, visiting family and even crossing rivers. He wheels himself with confidence, though his friends happily lend a hand. His parents are beyond grateful, his wheelchair gives him independence and the freedom to explore his world!



Adiya age 3



Adiya age 10

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