

Dazzling Christmas Lights Illuminate Hearts

In a heart-warming display of holiday spirit, the residents of Samson Court in Duncraig, Perth under the guidance of Alan and Tookta Bennett, turned their street into a Christmas wonderland.

Alan and Tookta Bennett and neighbours of Samson Court have been raising funds for Wheelchair for kids since 2016. What started out as festive display of lights for family, friends and neighbours turned into an annual event not to be missed by Christmas enthusiasts.

After 3 years of decorating the house with Christmas lights they used the opportunity to make a



Alan and Tookta Bennett

difference and raise funds for a charity, that's when Wheelchair for Kids became the beneficiary. In December 2016 they raised \$14200 and in December 2023 they raised an astonishing \$43684, with over \$190 000 raised to date.

Samson court has become a beacon of joy as neighbours come together to transform their homes into a mesmerizing display of twinkling lights and festive decorations. This tradition has evolved into overwhelming support and awareness for Wheelchair for kids.

The excitement and appreciation that both adults and children get while walking through this wonderland of lights brings endless amazement and motivation for the neighbours of Duncraig to keep up the labour of love year after year.

The Bennett family and residents of Samson Court are grateful for the support received from the



Samson Court, Duncraig

local community, the initiative not only strengthens the community, but shows that the power of working together can make such a meaningful difference to so many children in need.

Alan and Tookta will shortly be starting a new adventure, a caravan trip around Australia. Wheelchairs for Kids would like to say thank you for your support and efforts to help raise money and awareness for such a wonderful cause.

The smallest acts of kindness can illuminate the world with love and hope.



Wheelchairs For Kids®
Giving freedom & mobility worldwide

The Leprosy Mission of Myanmar provided these photos of disabled children who were recently given Wheel-chairs for Kids wheelchairs.

Thanks to Cerebral Palsy Alliance, our partners in this project, another container of wheelchairs has been sent to Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar, for the Leprosy Mission of Myanmar.



UPDATE - CEO Greg Hebble

Wow, where has the first 2 months of 2024 gone, let alone Christmas and New Year celebrations?...

Over the last weekend of November, I had the honour of participating in the Jericho Cup event in Warrnambool, Victoria. This event pays tribute to the heroic Light Horsemen and their exceptional mounts, the Walers, recognising their bravery in the Middle East from 1914 to 1919.



The founder and coordinator of the Jericho Cup, Bill Gibbins, is the same individual who generously provided the funds for us to acquire our current premises in Wangara. At the time, Bill was the owner of FCL Interstate Transport and his foresight and generosity have significantly contributed to our present success.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Bill, Andrew and their family for hosting me at this meaningful event. Their longstanding support of

Wheelchairs For Kids Australia has been invaluable and I extend my best wishes to them as they organise the 7th Jericho Cup in November 2024.



For the second consecutive year, I want to express my gratitude to the Envirotechnics Pest Control team. They have generously conducted the annual spray and bait treatment at our Wangara factory pro bono. It's acts of support like this, among many others, that truly fill your heart with gratitude and amazement. Thank you, Envirotechnics!

Once again, we received an invitation to host a table of volunteers at the Rotary Club of Scarborough Australia Day celebrations. Starting Australia Day with breakfast on the coast, overlooking Scarborough beach, was a fantastic way to kick off the day. A big thanks to the Rotary Club of Scarborough for consistently recognising the tremendous work our volunteers do, not only for our local community but also for children worldwide who are receiving the gift of mobility and inclusion, often for the very first time.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the launch event of The Yellow Umbrella Foundation. Approximately nine months ago, I met their founder, Lloyd Thomas over a coffee. Lloyd was seeking

advice on establishing a foundation and was keen to learn more about WFKA.

After numerous coffee conversations, it was announced at the launch event that The Yellow Umbrella Foundation is thrilled to partner with WFKA for the next



three years. They have generously committed \$25,000 annually to support our organisation's governance development, ensuring our longevity for years to come. I extend my sincere gratitude to Lloyd and his dedicated team for their support, and we eagerly anticipate collaborating with them and their partners as we continue our journey.

I'm looking forward to what promises to be another exciting & productive year ahead.

Cheers, Greg

In December, our team had the wonderful opportunity to gather and reflect on the year gone by while celebrating the festive season. Over 170 volunteers and partners joined us for a delightful lunch at the Woodvale Tavern. The venue was beautifully themed and a sumptuous spread awaited everyone.

Our esteemed Patron graced the occasion, taking time to interact with volunteers, expressing gratitude for their invaluable contributions and extending warm wishes for the holiday season. The event was filled with laughter, camaraderie and joy as attendees enjoyed the festivities together. Door prizes added an element of excitement, ensuring many went home with unexpected gifts. It was truly heartening to witness the WFKA family come together under one roof.



Celebrating International Wheelchair Day -1st March



International Wheelchair Day, observed annually on 1st March, is a day dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness about the challenges faced by wheelchair users worldwide. It's a day to recognise the importance of accessibility, inclusivity, and the empowerment of individuals with mobility impairments.

International Wheelchair Day dedicates this day to break down



physical and societal barriers that often hinder the lives of wheelchair users. It serves as a platform to advocate for improved accessibility in public spaces, transportation and infrastructure. By shedding light on the challenges faced by those who rely on wheelchairs, this day encourages communities, governments, and businesses to work towards creating environments that are welcoming and accommodating for everyone.



Wheelchairs are not just mobility aids; they are instruments of independence and empowerment. International Wheelchair Day is an opportunity to celebrate the resilience and strength of individuals who navigate the world on wheels. It highlights our importance of providing access to quality wheelchairs, ensuring that individuals with mobility impairments can lead fulfilling and active lives.

This day also emphasizes the importance of inclusivity, by promoting inclusivity and inspiring



others to pursue their passions regardless of physical limitations.

Education plays a crucial role in dispelling myths and misconceptions surrounding wheelchair users. International Wheelchair Day serves as a platform to educate the public about the diverse experiences of individuals with mobility impairments, fostering empathy and understanding.

International Wheelchair Day is a day of reflection and celebration. It reminds us that a more inclusive and accessible world is not only possible but necessary. By promoting awareness, breaking down barriers and celebrating the resilience of wheelchair user, we contribute to a society where everyone can thrive, regardless of their mobility challenges,

Wheelchairs For Kids Australia has changed the lives of over 58,000 children and their families all over the world. This is only made possible with the help and support of wonderful Volunteers and generous donors.

Home Integrity deliver building inspection services across Perth and the South West. We provide a guiding hand to those navigating the construction process, buying a new home, or dealing with a building defect situation.

Our partnership with WFKA began back in Aug 2019. We were looking for a way to reward our referral network without personal monetary gain. Our founder, Elias Oostveen, came up with the unique idea of making a charitable donation on behalf of the partner each time a new job was booked. A great way to benefit the community and provide each party with a feel-good moment.

WFKA was chosen, not only because of its impact on young lives and families, but because of the comradery and culture



empowering its volunteers with such a worthy purpose.

There is a reason the wait list to volunteer is so long. Both Elias's parents volunteer and love every minute they spend at the factory.

This successful partnership has generated over 800 Wheelchairs for kids in need across the World.

A bit more about us; Established in 2013, Home Integrity has grown rapidly through Word-of-Mouth referrals from one to 16

inspectors and 8 support staff. We believe building inspections don't

need to be scary or stressful, but they are important.

Our schedulers guide you through the booking process, coordinating with all parties so you don't need to. All our inspections are performed by registered builders, who will follow up on the day with a phone call to run you through the report and findings.

Visit our website homeintegrity.com.au for more info. When booking, let the team know you've come through WFKA for our mates' rate.

We are truly inspired by the hard work and dedication of WFKA and the volunteers who keep it together. We can't wait to see what more this partnership can achieve.



the organisation stands by. The energy in the factory is obvious,

Smiles all round

Surabaya Indonesia- December 2023

It's wonderful to hear about the impactful work done by the Global Village Foundation team in Bali, Occupational Therapists Linda McAllister, Kevin Baptist and a team of skilled technicians committed to improving the lives of children. Wheelchairs for kids transformed the lives of 240 children and families, in Surabaya, Trenggalek and Batu, during International Disability Week.

A clinic was held in front of the Matahari Department Store, the Manager Mr Hardy and staff provided technical

assistance, a stage, promotional material, carpeting and chairs for the families as well as helping translate, making it easier to communicate with the families.

The open space setting allowed for increased visibility, creating interest and awareness among the public. Parents had the opportunity to share their experiences about their child's development in a supportive environment. The team met with every family to discuss the impairments and needs of their child, to provide a perfectly fitted wheelchair.

Overall, the clinic made a significant positive impact on the lives of the children and families.

Volunteer factory area coordinator – Vince Carrocci



Vince Carrocci

After completing his Secondary Education, Vince entered the workforce as a Carpenter by Trade.

He had been aware of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia since its beginning in 1996 so, after retirement, Vince decided to investigate WFKA and joined the factory team in 2017.

With the expansion of the Project and the growing number of Factory Volunteers, the need to support Factory Manager, Br. Olly Pickett, in supervising the work areas became a necessity. Thanks to Vince and several other Volunteers, the many different areas of

manufacturing and assembly are monitored carefully.

Along with keeping an overall eye on operations in his area, Vince is also involved in setting new team members to work by introducing them to the various pieces of equipment, their correct usage and purpose.

Wheelchairs For Kids Australia is extremely grateful to Vince for his commitment which always comes with a smile. Perhaps this is explained by his comment: *“WFKA provides me with a lot of reward and satisfaction knowing that what I am doing is helping people in need.”*



John Hay



Rod Walker



Rob Bennett



Morne Marais

Fueling dedication

Our unsung heroines at Wheelchairs for kids, take the form of all the ladies who diligently provide Volunteers with a much needed tea or caffeine boost accompanied by delicious cakes and treats. Beyond the delightful food, their efforts create an opportunity for Volunteers to connect, catch up on news and have a good laugh at one of John’s jokes. This daily ritual gives everyone a good boost and motivation to go the extra mile.



From left to right: Anne Sladen, Maureen Runge and Patsy Runge

News from WFKA East Coast

Wheelchair Wheelathon

Silvan Primary School
Yarra Valley

Mid December as a finale to the school year, a Wheelchair



Wheelathon was run at Silvan Primary School in Yarra Valley Melbourne. This is one of Melbourne's smaller schools with only 23 pupils so the event was mainly about raising the awareness of the students to the situation faced by children with a disability living in developing nations. Immediately

prior to setting up the cones for the event, the students watched the Sam Majamanda video from Malawi and were provided with a presentation about the operation of WFKA. The students, assisted by the teachers, raised some funds for wheelchairs and gained an insight into life living in a wheelchair.

Wheelchair Wheelathon

Ferntree Gully North Primary School

Ferntree Gully North Primary School had decided late last year to run



a Wheelathon early in 2024. As soon as school returned a date was locked in only three weeks into the school year – 16th February 2024. The school had a great and enthusiastic team in place to promote the event and in a period of only ten days the Wheelathon event raised a total of \$6,390. This total included \$1,000 from the Rotary Club of Ferntree Gully who

sponsored and assisted with the event on the day. It was the first time we had the two wheelchair trailers with updated new signage to take forty wheelchairs to the school.

The school had hoped they might fund thirteen wheelchairs representing one for each grade at school but the end result exceeded this by ten in funding for twenty three wheelchairs.

Wheelchairs dispatched since 1996

AFGHANISTAN	1	JAVA	785	SIERRA LEONE	661
ALBANIA	40	LOMBOK	547	SINGAPORE	1
ANGOLA	50	SALATIGA	8	SOLOMON IS.	368
ARMENIA	302	SUMATRA	28	SOMALIA	332
AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	28	IRAN	22	SOMALILAND	160
COCOS IS.	1	IRAQ	1949	SOUTH AFRICA	123
BANGLADESH	671	JORDAN	271	SOUTH KOREA	20
BELARUS	131	KENYA	3421	SRI LANKA	2207
BHUTAN	8	KIRIBATI	338	SUDAN	60
BORNEO	340	LAOS	90	SYRIA	507
BOSNIA	100	LEBANON	673	TAIWAN	50
BOTSWANA	1	LIBERIA	181	TANZANIA	3268
BRAZIL	2	LIBYA	340	THAILAND	338
BULGARIA	25	MADAGASCAR	76	TIMOR LESTE	1156
BURKINA FASO	164	MALAWI	2544	TONGA	16
BURUNDI	24	MALAYSIA	7	TUVALU	6
CAMBODIA	1266	MALDIVES	4	UGANDA	2316
CAMEROON	1	MAURITANIA	75	UKRAINE (TOTAL) 20	105
CANADA	2	MAURITIUS	272	CHERNIVTSI	25
CHINA	1746	MOLDOVA	40	CHERNOBYL	60
COOK ISLANDS	5	MONGOLIA	1092	USA	2
D.R. OF CONGO	1072	MOROCCO	1635	VANUATU	383
EGYPT	665	MOZAMBIQUE	439	VIETNAM	8056
EL SALVADOR	1	MYANMAR	3175	YEMEN	166
ETHIOPIA	100	NAURU	10	ZAMBIA	2024
FIJI (TOTAL)	857	NEPAL	353	ZIMBABWE	487
BA	2	NIGERIA	456		
NADI	8	PAKISTAN	848		
ONO - I - LAU	10	PALESTINE - GAZA	656		
SAVU SAVU	40	PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2225		
SUVA	630	BOUGAINVILLE	6		
GHANA	234	PERU	2		
GUINEA	1	PHILIPPINES	1790		
INDIA	368	ROMANIA	132		
INDONESIA (TOTAL)	3904	RWANDA	166		
BALI	2516	SAMOA	231		
FLORES IS.	20	SEYCHELLES	60		

2023/2024 Financial Year Dispatch

JUL	506
AUG	504
SEPT	154
OCT	340
NOV	320
DEC	358
JAN	340
FEB	217
MAR	
APR	
MAY	
JUN	
TOTAL	2739

58,494



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 Australia” 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. **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 on line by scanning the QR code at right.
5. 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

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CARDS FOR A CAUSE

Folded Dreams

The Lake Joondalup Lifestyle Village has an outstanding group of creative minds that have come together with a powerful purpose, filled with passion and desire to make a positive impact. This group of friends have perfected the art of having a good time, working together and sharing ideas to make the most wonderful greeting cards, turning their collective efforts into raising funds for Wheelchairs for Kids.

Since 2001 the ladies of Lake Joondalup Lifestyle Village have been making and selling their handcrafted cards at the Village, shows and markets. As of the last 10 years they have generously collected their proceeds and donated them to the Wheelchairs for Kids, raising an astonishing \$11000.



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