



# Wheelchairs For Kids®

Giving freedom & mobility worldwide

## **THE DRILL**

APRIL – JUNE 2023  
VOL 20 ISSUE 104

## Fitting Gesture for Inaugural CEO



Flanked by fellow Rotarians from The Rotary Club of Scarborough, Gordon Hudson was honoured in April for his extraordinary contribution as the inaugural CEO of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia ( WFKA ). In 1996 the Rotary Club of Scarborough took up the challenge of making and donating wheelchairs to children living with disability in under-resourced countries. The Gordon Hudson Conference Room will continue to be the location for discussion and decisions that will ensure the longevity of WFKA.

L to R Jim Joseph ( Chairman of the Board of WFKA ), Mike McAuliffe, Gordon Hudson ( Retired CEO of WFKA ), Fred March, Alan Bennett, Brian Richards and Peter Whyte ( retired member of the Board of WFKA ).



## UPDATE— CEO Greg Hebble

How time flies when you are having fun!! What an exciting organisation this is to be a part of and I believe that there is so much more to achieve.

Just imagine, more wheelchairs, more smiles on children’s faces and not to forget, more active volunteers that go about their volunteering and at this same time are improving their mental health and wellbeing as well as that of those around them.

Since our last edition the team has again completed a successful sausage sizzle at Bunnings Wangara, a shopping centre feature at Morley Galleria as well as numerous community club presentations which have all helped with the task of building our **brand awareness** and **presence** within the community.



It was great seeing the number of people that came along to acknowledge our founding **CEO Gordon Hudson’s** fantastic 27 year contribution to this great organisation as well as the HUGE response we received when we put a post on facebook seeking assistance in filling the gap of soft toys. The post had a reach of in excess of 220,000 people!! We have been inundated with very generous support and even though our volunteers in the Rug and Toy room aren’t talking to me, they are all very appreciative of these much needed additions.

In March, I had the privilege of seeing first-hand, in Bali, what a difference a wheelchair makes to not only the child’s life but that of the family and the village in which they live when I recently assisted in fitting a 11 year old girl with her first wheelchair.

This was an amazing and emotional experience which will continue to inspire us all in raising the required funds to meet our goal of **6000** wheelchairs per year in 3 years!!

Speaking of goals, in April we launched our first **Strategic Plan** in 27 years to our volunteers and members. This is an exciting time for the organisation as we have come together with a common direction. Feel free to log onto our website and see what our 6 key strategies are and how these are going to keep us focused and driven for the next 3 years.



We have recently finalised refreshing our **brochure** which has provided us with a new look and at the same time giving us another opportunity to promote the great work that we have and are continuing to achieve. If you would like some brochures (pictured left) sent to you or your office to share with your friends or staff and customers, please don’t hesitate in letting us know and we will get some to you ASAP.

In late May, I had the opportunity to visit Melbourne to spend some time with our invaluable **East Coast volunteers and supporters**. This was very rewarding and I can’t start to thank them enough for the exposure and support that they are providing us with as well as setting a great foundation to further launch into the other states of Australia.

My Melbourne visit also coincided with the **Rotary International 2023 Convention** which allowed us to demonstrate our wheelchair to more than 117 countries from around the world in one place over 5 wonderful days!! We have a list of follow ups longer than my arm, but this never phases you when you have had such incredible questions

and demand for our product and what an opportunity that lies ahead in providing more smiles to so many needy children round the world.

Yes, the journey just keeps on rolling on and if you feel you would like to get on board, just let us know or alternatively go to the back of this newsletter and potentially

**“Help us build another Wheelchair”**

by supporting our latest end of financial year fundraising appeal .

I’m already looking forward to the next edition of the Drill as we are giving it a makeover.... Watch this space!!

Cheers, Greg



**The RI Convention team ( L to R ):**  
**Greg Hebble ( WA )**  
**Russell Hayes (Vic)**  
**Grant Klaaysen (Vic)**  
**Jim Joseph (WA)**



**The RI Convention 2023**  
**WFKA stand**

**★ Generous Support from Joondalup Lifestyle Village, Silver and Louis**



Representatives of Joondalup Lifestyle Village present Workshop Manager, Br Olly Pickett, with a very generous donation of \$2000.



Silver and Louis Lepoutre with their thoughtful and generous donation of cuddly soft toys bought with money earned from doing jobs.



One of many children living with disability now enjoys the generosity of the supporters of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia.



**THANK YOU**  
facility & Property  
Management

For your generous and expert care of our lawn verge in Wangara.

**VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.**



**ROTARY FOREIGN COIN COLLECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS ALONG WITH THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA**

Malaria is still our world's worst killer disease. More than a million people, mostly children, die of malaria each year and many more are left ill and disabled.

RAM ( Rotarians Against Malaria ) is a program that raises funds, distributes bed netting, arranges education programs, assists in diagnosis and treatment as well as research and prevention.

A great way to support RAM....It is quite common that travellers from overseas return with coins and notes of small denominations from the countries they have visited.

The money is usually too low in value to be changed back into Australian Currency.

The Rotary Club of Hornsby in NSW arranges for these donated foreign coins to be returned to their country of origin where they are either converted directly into Australian Currency or into larger denomination local currency notes before conversion. Foreign coins cannot be converted within Australia.

The proceeds raised from this process are largely directed towards the RAM project with the remainder of the money used for a range of other charitable international projects of Rotary - in particular for health, education and welfare of people, especially children, in poor areas of the world.

Wanneroo Rotarian Ian Bradshaw is our contact in WA for getting the foreign money to The Rotary Club of Hornsby. Ian is pictured above right with Wheelchairs For Kids Australia CEO Greg Hebble.

So if you would like to put your collection of foreign coins and notes back into circulation for a good cause or to get more information please contact Ian Bradshaw on 0434 545 970 .

Alternatively, drop them into the Office at 10 Buckingham Drive, Wangara, Western Australia and we will get them to Ian for you.



## “King of Corona” ?

Multi – skilled long serving factory Volunteer, **Steve Pratt** ( left ) , recently celebrated a milestone 75th birthday. Congratulations Steve!

Amongst a host of other activities, Steve keeps an eye on the very lucrative recycling program of Containers For Change.

On his birthday Steve was spotted sorting through some boxes ..... just in case a stray Corona still needed emptying before being recycled.

Along with his work on the assembling of the headrests for the wheelchairs, Steve has the factory grounds looking great.

## Two More Wheelchairs Making a Difference in Thailand.

On January 20<sup>th</sup> we dispatched two ‘Wheelchairs For Kids Australia’ chairs, via **TOLL**, to NSW from where they were taken to Thailand by Occupational Therapist **Amanda Prigg** and her Physiotherapist partner courtesy of **Thai Airlines**.

Amanda reports: “We have just arrived home from our Thailand trip and happy to let you know how we used the two donated wheelchairs. Thai airways were fantastic - they were more than happy to transport the wheelchairs all the way to Chiang Mai. So a good start!

We had 4 days in Chiang Mai where we found the need for both child and adult wheelchairs was great - we are thinking that there has been limited availability due to the Covid lockdowns. we ended up purchasing some adult wheelchairs to distribute as the need was so big.

The first WFKA chair we distributed was quite a difficult case - the 15 year old boy (right) was so frightened of us that it was difficult to get measurements.

This boy had some severe lower leg contractions due to mainly sitting on the floor of the hut each day where his grandmother looks after him. The severe contractions also made it very difficult to seat him correctly. The best thing about this wheelchair was that we showed our local friend and contact how to construct and measure for the wheelchair so that as he grows, adjustments can be made.

Our second wheelchair was given to a 23 year old woman (left) whom I named **Dara** - which means “flower”. At first we were not sure if we could fit the wheelchair to suit her; however after measurements were taken we were happy with the outcome and she was very happy also!

The WFKA chair means she can access the village plus sit with family. We will return to the village next time to check. We also showed our local contact how to adjust the wheelchair. Her previous chair was falling apart! “

338 wheelchairs  
have been donated in Thailand.

(Editor)



# Volunteers working to produce the next consignment of wheelchairs



David Kennedy



John Burton



Barrie Bywater



Rob Jones



Phil Gulley



John Poustie



Sue Curry



Arthur Fairhurst



Clive Patterson



Lindsay Gleeson



Gwen Jones & Linda Hull



Annie Tabram



Roger Hall



Hemchand Gosrani

# News from WFKA East Coast

Russell Hayes and Gant Klaaysen - Victorian Coordinators - Wheelchairs For Kids Australia

## Shipping of wheelchairs to Ghana.



Above

Samina Bawumia, Ghana's Second Lady, ( in orange ).

In April we had the culmination of a project initiated in mid 2022 by the Victorian Wheelchairs for Kids team. This was to supply **twenty four** wheelchairs to the Orthopedic Training Centre which has been operating in **Accra, Ghana** for more than fifty years. The OTC is the main disability centre in all of Ghana attending to people with disabilities in that country.

A handover ceremony in early May was officiated by **Berenice Owen-Jones, Australia's High Commissioner to Ghana**, and attended by the **Ghanian Second Lady**

plus other local people involved in the disability sector in Ghana. Freight cost was arranged by Wheelchairs for Kids Victoria and the shipment was treated as an **AusAid project of the Australian**

**Government** since, at the Ghana end, the High Commission staff assisted with logistics and customs. With the help of **Billy Williams** ( previously an Australian High Commissioner to Ghana ) and other diplomat connections in Canberra we sourced the payment for freight of the shipping container from an Australian mining company involved in Ghana. The owner of the mining company even arranged for pick up of the container from the port in Ghana and the transport of it to the OTC centre. The **Ghanaian ruling family** is very supportive and appreciative of this achievement.



Above

L to R: Berenice Owen-Jones, Australia's High Commissioner to Ghana, Sister Elizabeth Newman who runs the OTC and Billy Williams



## Rotary International Convention

A major effort for WFK this year was our presence at the Rotary International Convention, held late May, at Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre. This brought 15,000/20,000 Rotarians from around the world over the five days of the Convention which had 700 booths in the House of Friendship. Greg Hebble and Jim Joseph came over from Perth to help in representing WFK on the booth we had.

## Annual Golf Day and The Holland Festival

In April and May the Victorian activities were boosted by significant support from two Melbourne Rotary Clubs : In March, **Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise** ran their **annual golf day** which attracts sponsorships from many businesses in the Mornington Peninsula area and a field of about two hundred golfers.

The golf day is run as a fundraiser for up to ten causes that the Rotary club wants to support and Wheelchairs for Kids is high amongst those causes. The presentation (left) shows



**Club President Peter Cracknell** ( at left ) having handed over a cheque for **\$6,000** accepted by **Russell Hayes** ( centre ) and **Grant Klaaysen**.

During the actual golf day the wheelchairs trailer (right) was on display and we assisted in the fund raising activities.



Also in March the **Rotary Club of Casey** ran its annual event **The Holland Festival**. This was after a two year break in 2021 and 2022. Wheelchairs for Kids had a marquee at the Festival which provided information to the public about our activities distributing wheelchairs to developing nations.

The event was a financial success and Wheelchairs for Kids received a donation of **\$4,000**



A Clog family



The Mini Organ



Costumes

# Wheelchairs Dispatched since 1996

AFGHANISTAN	1
ALBANIA	40
ANGOLA	50
ARMENIA	302
AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	27
<i>COCOS IS.</i>	<i>1</i>
BANGLADESH	671
BELARUS	131
BHUTAN	8
BORNEO	340
BOSNIA	100
BOTSWANA	1
BRAZIL	2
BULGARIA	25
BURKINA FASO	164
BURUNDI	22
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
<i>BA</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>NADI</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>ONO - I - LAU</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>SAVU SAVU</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>SUVA</i>	<i>630</i>
GHANA	234
GUINEA	1
INDIA	368

INDONESIA (TOTAL)	3224
<i>BALI</i>	<i>2176</i>
<i>FLORES IS.</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>JAVA</i>	<i>445</i>
<i>LOMBOK</i>	<i>547</i>
<i>SALATIGA</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>SUMATRA</i>	<i>28</i>
IRAN	22
IRAQ	1949
JORDAN	271
KENYA	2917
KIRIBATI	338
LAOS	90
LEBANON	673
LIBERIA	181
LIBYA	340
MADAGASCAR	56
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 - <i>GAZA</i>	656
PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2225
<i>BOUGAINVILLE</i>	<i>6</i>

PERU	2
PHILIPPINES	1642
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) <i>20</i>	105
<i>CHERNIVTSI</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>CHERNOBYL</i>	<i>60</i>
USA	2
VANUATU	383
VIETNAM	8056
YEMEN	166
ZAMBIA	1684
ZIMBABWE	486

**55,593**

**2022 /2023**  
FINANCIAL YEAR  
DISPATCH

JUL	868
AUG	0
SEPT	672
OCT	390
NOV	82
DEC	226
JAN	235
FEB	173
MAR	347
APR	340
MAY	340
JUN	526*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4199</b>



\*ANTICIPATED

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**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/wheelchairsforkids> **WEB SITE:** [www.wheelchairsforkids.org](http://www.wheelchairsforkids.org)  
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Helping one person may not change the whole world but it could change the world for one person.

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:

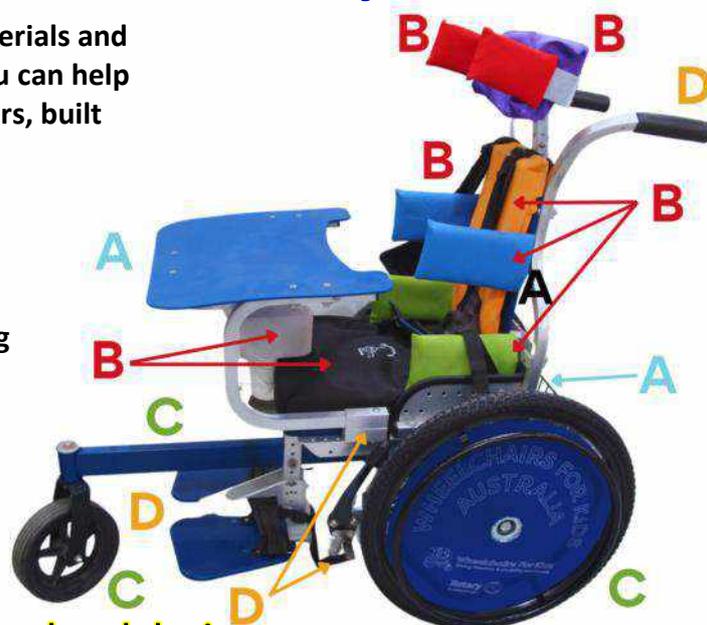
1. Consider making a **bequest in your will**. This generous form of support has been a great benefit to us.
  2. **Visit our website** at [www.wheelchairsforkids.org](http://www.wheelchairsforkids.org)
  3. **By electronic transfer** to BSB 016 494, ACCOUNT 4254 578 15 Please email your amount, name and address to us.
  4. **Fill in the donation slip below**, detach and post to Wheelchairs For Kids, PO Box 1175, Wangara DC, WA. 6947
  5. **Donate on line** by scanning the QR code at right.
- ❖ 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.



## Here's how you can help us build more wheelchairs for children living with disability

Your donation today will help us to purchase more materials and components to build our rough terrain wheelchairs. You can help by donating towards a part of these amazing wheelchairs, built here in Perth, or gift the cost of a whole wheelchair.

- \* **A** \$29 provides the front tray, rear carry basket and accessories.
- \* **B** \$49 provides the cushions, foam supports, padding and strapping.
- \* **C** \$79 provides the chassis and wheels.
- \* **D** \$118 provides the frame, brakes and footrests.



**\$275 builds a complete rough terrain wheelchair.**



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The easiest way to securely pledge your gift is online via [www.wheelchairsforkids.org/donate](http://www.wheelchairsforkids.org/donate)  
It costs \$275 to assemble a wheelchair for a child.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT OF:

- \$29    \$49    \$79    \$118    \$275  
 My choice \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTER DETAILS:

Title   First name   Last name

Street Address

Suburb   State   Postcode

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 and over are tax deductible.  
A receipt will then be sent.

For our Privacy Policy visit [www.wheelchairsforkids.org](http://www.wheelchairsforkids.org)

