



Wheelchairs For Kids®

Giving freedom & mobility worldwide

THE DRILL

JANUARY - MARCH 2023
VOL 20 ISSUE 103

First Adjusta Wheelchairs to Mozambique

In August 2005 a needy child in Mozambique received an earlier model of our wheelchair. Between then and December 2006 another 98 wheelchairs, all earlier models, were sent to needy children in this country on the east coast of Africa. These 99 wheelchairs were all able to significantly change the lives of those children and their families.

In July 2022 another 340 wheelchairs were sent. These wheelchairs were now the extensively adjustable, all-terrain Model 9 "Adjustas".



An email below from [Roberto Agosto](#) to our Coordinator of Dispatch and Distribution, [Don Kidson](#), provides an insight as to what the wheelchairs mean to the recipients.....

Dear Don

I would like to thank you for the wheelchairs you sent us (through SwissLimbs).

We are now in Pemba, northern Mozambique, one of the poorest areas in Mozambique at the moment, and with serious conflicts all around us, to teach and produce prosthetic limbs and give out 20 of your Wheelchairs.

Henrique Matsinhe is with us, we are partnering with him and [Obra dom Orione](#) as before and will continue to support them in the future. He is doing the assembling and showing how it is done.

We want to encourage more technicians to go through the WHO courses.

I can't describe the joy I saw on the faces of the mothers of the kids when they saw the colourful wheelchairs. And when they saw the blankets and the Teddy bears!! Indescribable. The thought and care and love that went into those boxes, we can only imagine, but it's very much appreciated, and we have the joy to see it. I also saw how good they are, solid but also very mobile. So, thank you!

On Saturday, 3rd December, is the International Day of the Persons with Disabilities and we will give out chairs and legs before the whole community.

Best regards to you and your team and all those people who knitted and packaged those beautiful gifts.





Eight months into my new role and boy am I having some fun!
Busy - but still having some fun along the way

I'm continuing to get to know our wonderful team of volunteers as well as meeting some of our current partners and potential new ones.

As you know, late last year we commenced the journey of putting together our first Strategic Plan in 25 years and although it won't be finalised prior to this first edition of The Drill for 2023 going to print, I can tell you that it is all but ready and look forward to sharing it with all in the coming weeks and editions. I'd like to thank all those that have been involved in bringing together this important document and information in such a short time-frame. In particular I would like to make a special thanks to John Poulsen, who did an incredible job in facilitating focus meetings and a vital planning session that brought many great minds together and ultimately created a common purpose and vision for Wheelchairs For Kids Australia.

In this edition of The Drill you will see we have introduced a full page to acknowledging the fantastic support and contribution that we receive from our East Coast partners and especially Russell Hayes & Grant Klaaysen (and Grant's father Peter prior to him). The exposure and support that we receive from these guys is nothing short of amazing; so don't miss out on reading page 6 as well their regular stories and achievements going forward. Thanks Team East Coast!!

Late last year, Envirotechnics General Manager, Victor Morgan along with Marketing Coordinator Frieda Morgan, visited our factory and they were blown away with our operation and the team of volunteers. As a result, they decided to see what they could do to assist us. Envirotechnics is a pest control company that have been operating for over 30 years and are backed up by its parent company BGC Group.

Following their tour and site visit, they have already committed \$2,750, which will cover the cost of 10 Wheelchairs and at the same time they have decided to do our pest control management on an ongoing basis, pro bono.

They are also in the process of featuring us in their broader BCG newsletter as well as putting the final touches on a consumer promotion where a percentage of any new sales/jobs will be donated to WFKA.

In February, we had the pleasure of hosting Rotary International Director, Vicki Puliz and her husband Tim (pictured right) at our Wangara factory.

Vicki was in WA attending the joint Rotary District Conference in Mandurah and she gave us some of her valuable time.

Vicki and Tim were very impressed in our operation and I'm looking forward to this partnership continuing when we meet up again at the Rotary International Conference in Melbourne during May where we will have a WFKA exhibition/stand.

As you will see throughout the Drill, a lot has been unfolding, but I'm getting the feeling that there is so much more to come!!

Hang on to your seats for a great ride and I look forward to bringing a further update in late May/early June 2023.

Cheers Greg





Recognition of Volunteer Service to *Wheelchairs For Kids Australia*



Of the over 200 currently active volunteers there is a long-serving group of just over 70 members with volunteer service ranging from 10 years to 25 years. At the end of 2022 this group celebrated 4 significant milestones...10, 15, 20 or 25 years working to provide wheelchairs for children living with disability in under-resourced countries. Each of these volunteers received a certificate signed by **Hon Stephen Dawson MLC**, the Minister for Volunteering, and **Greg Hebble**, CEO of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia.

Ms Margaret Quirk MLA (below) presented certificates to one group,



Christmas Lights in Samson Court, Duncraig, Light Up the Hearts of Needy Children Around the World.

Once again the switches were thrown by the amazing people of Samson Court, Duncraig and once more a breathtaking world of colours and images blazed its way into the lives of hundreds of visitors. Donations were happily given that would help take their joy and excitement, in the form of colourful wheelchairs and cuddly toys to needy children around the world. \$ 28,420.55 (103 wheelchairs) was donated and much gratitude is extended to all concerned.



Christmas Lunch to Finish 2022 in Style.



On December 14 a large gathering of WFK personnel celebrated another successful year with a most enjoyable lunch together. The outstanding performance of the MC, our CEO, earned him an offer from the hotel to join their staff as MC for the many functions they hold.

It is hoped that once a year will be enough for Greg.

Volunteers (L to R) Marcia Watson and Ams Bhudia.





Wheelchairs Donated to Children in Kenya

In November 2020 Ewongan Olosho Oloela, a Community-Based Organization, gathered a special team in Machakos Central, Masii and Muthetheni in Kenya. Their aim was to assess children living with physical disability and then to fit our donated wheelchairs to each according to their needs.

- The team was comprised of
- * 2 Wheelchair specialists (technical team)
 - * 1 Occupational therapist
 - * 1 Orthopedic technologist
 - * 1 Physiotherapist
 - * The Director of Ewongan - Caroline Munyao



The team also assessed children at the Makutano market as well as some home assessments.



Assessment at Machakos Central



at Makutano market



Assessment at home



“We wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude the continued support we have received from Wheelchairs For Kids, Australia. The wheelchairs have made, and will continue to provide, real change to the lives of the beneficiaries.....

Through this initiative we were able to supply wheelchairs for the prescribed clients. We then organized for a 14 days event to conduct the assembly and fitting since the wheelchairs came unassembled, we found it worthy to plan a day for the assembling and other days for the product fitting. We closely follow the World Health Organization’s Standards Rules and Regulations on provision and management of wheelchair services.....

The major objective is to enhance mobility for the wheelchair user thereby facilitating their inclusion and participation in the community.....

We thank Wheelchairs For Kids Australia through Mr. Peter Hoo for their generous support granted to these vulnerable kids.....

We shall forever be indebted to you and we know that for all your good deeds there will be rewards to you and your families.....

Wheelchairs for Kids Australia’s direct support has helped us reach a bridge which we thought was too far, and we shall always be grateful.....

You will always be our great friends and true guardians of these children.

However, we have barely scratched the surface and a lot of kids still need to be assisted.

It is our prayer that with your continued support we can do much more.”

“If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody.” Chinese saying.



assembly



fitting



mobile

Volunteers Who Make the Wheelchairs



ZIGGY SWALSKY



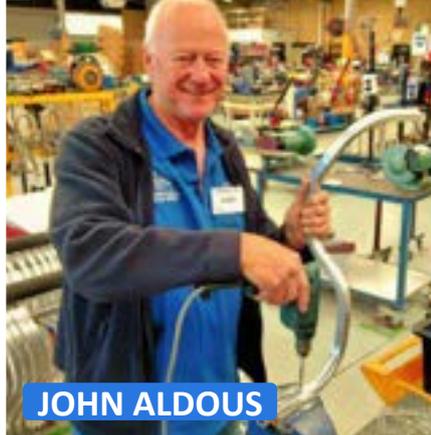
SUSAN EDWARDS



VAUGHAN THOMAS



JOY ANGERSON



JOHN ALDOUS



ROD CALDWELL



ROB BENNETT



PEARL COLLEY

LAUREL PHILLIPS



GORDON CLARKE



NIGEL BILTON



At right - not a worn out team of volunteers but a wonderful group of 12 soft toys donated by a very talented knitter who is yet to be identified. These will surely be welcomed and loved by 12 children living with disability.

News from WFK East Coast

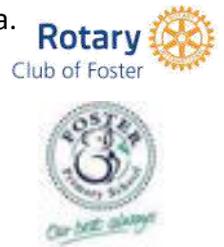
(Information about Eastern States' activities, in support of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, is supplied by South Eastern Division Wheelchairs For Kids Coordinators **Russell Hayes and Grant Klaaysen**)



Above L to R: Russell Hayes, Scott Moorhouse and Grant Klaaysen.

Over the past 15 years Rotary Clubs and schools in the Eastern States have provided exceptional support for Wheelchairs For Kids Australia.

In November 2022 **The Rotary Club of Foster** in Gippsland, Victoria invited the WFK East Coast team to visit the club and provide a presentation on recent progress of WFK.



Foster is a small rural community of a little over 2,000 people and has one primary school with 200 students. The Rotary club also invited the School **Principal Scott Moorhouse** to attend the Rotary Club presentation.

It was soon decided to run a Wheelchair Wheelathon at the school and on 10th March the event occurred.

A great development was the establishment of a junior Rotary Club within the school community and **nine students in level five** (pictured left) became the initial committee. Their first formal function was to organise the Wheelchair Wheelathon as the club's International Aid project.

The Club, known as **Early Act**, then set up the information to school

families, the program for the day, and the sourcing of sponsors for the efforts of the students on the day either riding in the wheelchairs or pushing them. During the Wheelathon the Early Act club members provided course supervision and the counting of laps as well as ensuring no accidents occurred.

The large area of school grounds were ideal for the outdoor activity as the sports oval is surrounded by a Fitness Track which became the course for the wheelchairs. **The Rotary club provided a sausage sizzle** in which all participated with proceeds adding to the fund raising efforts of the Wheelathon project.

The target was to finance the cost of **ten wheelchairs** and it is certain that this was achieved and exceeded with the final figure still being determined.



Pictured in the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times at the sausage sizzle are L to R: Dylan, Jase, Spencer, Stuart and Louis.

Quite a number of parents attended the Wheelathon and it was apparent they appreciated their children being given the opportunity to show compassion for other less fortunate children living in developing nations where access to mobility aids is either non-existent or very limited.



Doing the laps.

A great day was had by all and the families of about twenty disabled children overseas will be very grateful.

Great Support from Somerville Opportunity Shop

In the couple of months leading up to Christmas 2022 the volunteers at St Andrew's Anglican Church Opportunity Shop, Somerville, displayed a WFK wheelchair in the shop and invited customers to make a donation to the cause. This proved to be very successful and recently the proceeds were passed on to WFK East Coast including a rounding up from shop sales funds. Total contributed was \$1,750 to cover cost of seven wheelchairs and the ladies involved are delighted to have assisted the WFK charity.



The wonderful Volunteer Team with their Certificate of Appreciation - well deserved for providing 7 wheelchairs for needy children,.

Wheelchairs Dispatched since 1998

AFGHANISTAN	1
ALBANIA	40
ANGOLA	50
ARMENIA	302
AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	25
<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	2577
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	2835
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

2022 /2023

**FINANCIAL YEAR
DISPATCH**

JUL	868
AUG	0
SEPT	672
OCT	390
NOV	82
DEC	226
JAN	235
FEB	173
MAR	347
APR	
MAY	
JUN	
TOTAL	2993

54,911

Retired Inaugural CEO of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia

a Worthy Recipient of the

Prestigious Dr. Ken Collins Award.



In December 2022 **Rotarian Gordon Hudson**, retired CEO of WFK Australia, was honoured at the RC of Freshwater Bay by being presented with the **Dr. Ken Collins Award** for Excellence in Rotary Service.

The part played by Gordon in the instigation and development of the substantial and sustainable project that is now Wheelchairs For Kids Australia makes him a very worthy recipient of this award. Gordon is pictured with (L to R) Club President Fiona Tremlett, Past President Simone Collins and Past President and current Secretary Di Collins.



Helping one person may not change the whole world but it could change the world for one person.

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** at 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION :

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FACTORY: +61 8 9409 3633

E-MAIL : wchairsforkids@gmail.com

WA CHARITY LICENCE - 20577

VICTORIA FUNDRAISING LICENCE - 0015995

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/wheelchairsforkids>

WEB SITE: www.wheelchairsforkids.org

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Major Sponsors



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