

Rotary Celebrates Br. Olly Pickett

On 8th April, Manningham City Rotary Club was thrilled to host a special dinner in honour of Br. Olly Pickett and his well deserved recognition as the 2025 Senior Australian of the Year.

The event, coordinated with the help of the East Coast Fundraising Team, Russell Hayes and Grant Klaaysen, was a truly inspiring success, with 67 guests filling the room with admiration and support.

There was a real buzz in the air as Rotarians and guests gathered to hear from Br. Olly. Introduced by District 9815 Governor Colin Byron, Br. Olly delivered a powerful and engaging presentation about the journey and future of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia. Br. Olly shared his personal reflections from his time in Canberra in the lead up to the award. His warmth, humour and deep passion for supporting children left everyone inspired.

Rotarians from near and far were excited to be part of the night, with clubs from Districts 9800, 9790 and 9815 represented, seven clubs in total. Adding to the community spirit, we also welcomed members of the Women's Friendship Group and Yarra Valley CWA, long time supporters who regularly contribute beautifully knitted knee rugs and teddies for the children receiving wheelchairs.

In a fantastic outcome, Manningham City Rotary donated funds for 11 wheelchairs and guests generously contributed enough for 10 more, an incredible 21 wheelchairs funded in one evening.



Russell Hayes, Leanne & Colin Byron, Br. Olly Pickett, Esther Murray, Grant Klaaysen

A reflection of Rotary's ongoing commitment to Wheelchairs For Kids Australia.

Box Hill Central Gets Behind WFKA

There was no slowing down for Br. Olly! The very next morning, he was warmly welcomed at Rotary Box Hill Central's breakfast meeting, where he shared more of his story and answered questions from engaged members.

In another wonderful show of support, the club donated enough to fund 10 wheelchairs. A brilliant contribution to the ongoing success of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia.

volunteers we work towards making life a little easier for children living with a disability. Designed to meet World Health Organisation guidelines, these wheelchairs are built to be safe, strong and durable giving kids the support and mobility they deserve.

As we recognise World Health Day 2025, we stay committed to providing life changing mobility solutions, helping children with disabilities gain independence and the chance for a brighter future.

World Health Day

World Health Day is marked every year on 7th April to shine a light on important health issues. This year, the World Health Organisation's theme is "Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures" a reminder that everyone deserves access to healthcare, education and information.

At Wheelchairs For Kids, we're all about changing lives. From our factory in Wangara, with our inspirational

UPDATE - CEO Greg Hebble

Just when you think things might slow down, they pick up again!

The past three months have been full of action. In March, we had our marquee at the Hyde Park Festival, organised by the Rotary Club of North Perth, Jenny Prince and I also attended the WBA Community Expo. Both events were a great success and gave us a chance to connect with the community and share the wonderful work we do at WFKA.



Dea Stavar, Greg Hebble, Jim Joseph, Pavla Thomas

We recently joined the Best Practice Network group and hosted some of their members for a breakfast and tour. It was a great opportunity to showcase our workshop and what our volunteers achieve each week.

In May, we were thrilled to be the beneficiaries of the AMTIL Golf Day in Melbourne, thanks to our partnership with Sutton Tools. With help from our volunteers Russell and Grant, AMTIL and the participants we received \$5,500, enough to fund 20 wheelchairs! We also attended Australian Manufacturing Week in Melbourne, where AMTIL kindly provided us with a stand pro bono. Big thanks to Lorraine Maxwell and her team for their continued support.

In April, I took some annual leave with my family in Bali and met with the Global Village Foundation. We were able to fit two children Kadek and Ketut with wheelchairs. Kadek, 11, had been dragging herself around, but was all smiles once seated in her chair. Her mum quickly put the purple ribbon that held the rug and toys together in her hair.

Ketut, 18, had outgrown his previous wheelchair, which wasn't fit for



GVF Team, Greg Hebble, Ketut, Ketut's Mother

purpose. Thanks to the GVF team who made modifications to our wheelchair, he was mobile again and had a huge smile on his face after a lengthy fitting. Ketut is nonverbal, but fully aware of the benefits his new wheelchair brings.

Experiences like this remind me how lucky I am to work for such a great organisation and how a \$275 contribution can go a long way in changing a child's life.

Cheers,
Greg



Kadek



Ketut (before)



Ketut (after)

Blu Springs: Making a Difference in Zambia

Blu Springs, with its headquarters in southern Switzerland, has been changing lives in Zambia since 2017. The heart of the story goes back to 2014, when Dutch physiotherapist Marco Kerkhof, volunteered at Kasisi Children's Home in Zambia, setting up a physical therapy room, laying the foundation for a long term mission to help children thrive.

One of the biggest challenges Marco encountered was the lack of children's supportive wheelchairs. In 2016, WFKA sent an initial eight wheelchairs, leading to an official partnership with Blu Springs in 2018. That first shipment delivered 166 "Adjusta" wheelchairs. Since then, over 2,700 wheelchairs have been distributed across Zambia. The most recent included 340 wheelchairs and a supply of spare parts to

maintain existing chairs.

In Lusaka, Blu Springs partners with CURE Hospital, where Derick and Davide, both involved from the beginning, skilfully assemble and adjust the wheelchairs. Distribution is coordinated by CURE Hospital physiotherapist Conrad, ensuring the wheelchairs reach the children most in need.

In Chipata, Blu Springs collaborates with Pamodzi Ndi Ana, a local initiative run by Enrico and Simonetta, an Italian couple who have dedicated over 30 years to helping the Zambian community. Together, they run wheelchair workshops and follow-up visits ensuring proper use and care.

Blu Springs also organise training sessions on wheelchair assembly, fitting and adjustments. These



workshops cover essentials like posture, feeding positions and pressure sore prevention, prioritising children's health and comfort.

Though Marco's professional commitments have limited his time in Zambia, his vision remains the heart of Blu Springs. A dedicated team, generous global network of donors, sponsors and volunteers keep the mission moving forward.

Thanks to this heartfelt collaboration between Switzerland, Zambia and Australia, Blu Springs and WFKA continue to bring mobility and dignity to children who need it most.



Lemmy Takes the Lead in Wheelchair Care

During a follow up maintenance visit from Pamodzi Ndi Ana in Zambia, volunteers met Lemmy, a young boy eager to help maintain his own wheelchair.

Instead of just observing, he jumped in to learn about the parts and how they work. With guidance, Lemmy helped with the repairs, turning a routine check-up into a hands on lesson. Seeing Lemmy take the initiative is a powerful reminder of why these programs matter.

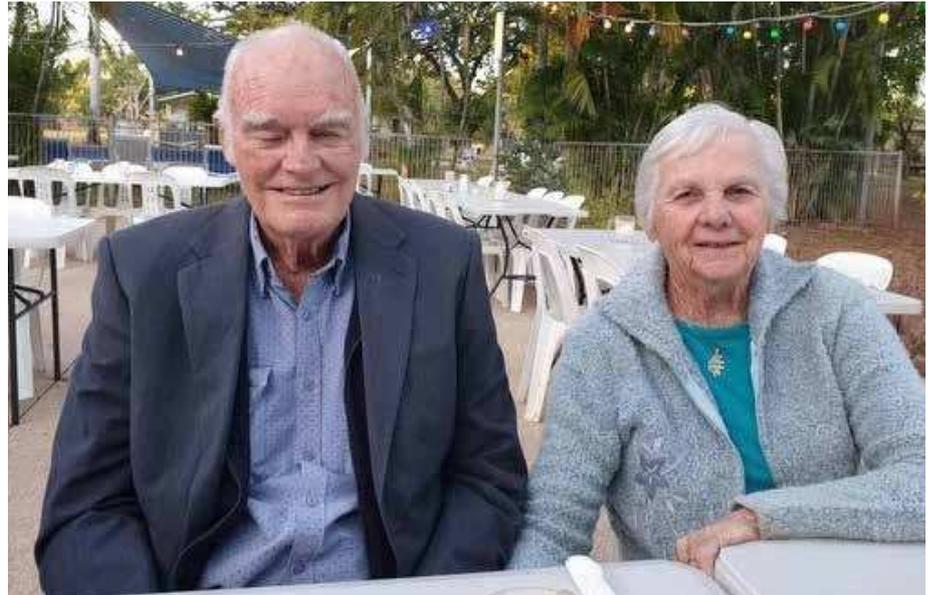


Bill and Eileen Doyle: A Legacy of Heartfelt Generosity

Bill and Eileen Doyle from Katherine, NT, have been truly extraordinary champions of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia. Their generosity and big hearted support have left an incredible lasting legacy that continues to change lives.

Their inspiring journey with WFKA began in the most unexpected way, by picking up a simple pamphlet at a local market in Katherine. Curious, they looked into the organisation and soon reached out to then CEO Gordon Hudson. That one small moment sparked something much bigger.

Having recently sold their farms due to health challenges, Bill and Eileen were searching for a cause close to



Bill and Eileen Doyle

their hearts. They found it in WFKA. The mission to help children with disabilities gain freedom and mobility deeply resonated with them.

Originally hailing from the United States, Bill and Eileen built their lives from scratch here in Australia. They established their cattle property, Dixie Station, proudly named after their southern American heritage and poured their hearts into transforming it into a thriving outback station. It wasn't always easy, but with grit, determination and a positive spirit, they made it a success.

Their incredible generosity played a major role in helping WFKA secure its current factory in Wangara, WA. Giving our amazing volunteers a permanent home to build life changing wheelchairs. And thanks to Bill and Eileen's ongoing support, even more children across the world are gaining the gift of mobility and independence.

The entire WFKA family will always be deeply thankful to Bill and Eileen Doyle. Their legacy is one of kindness, vision and impact and it continues to make a world of difference every single day.



Inclusion in Action

Thirteen families and 28 children from Safe Haven Medical Outreach in Siem Reap, Cambodia, recently enjoyed a day to remember.

Thanks to generous local sponsors and a range of mobility aids, including wheelchairs from WFKA, the group visited Angkor Wildlife & Aquarium. For many of the children it was their first time seeing exotic fish, wild animals and experiencing the excitement of a giant Ferris wheel. Their smiles, laughter and wide-eyed wonder said it all.

With their WFKA wheelchairs, these kids could finally get out and join the fun, something many of us take for granted. Every child deserves the chance to explore and simply be a kid.

Safe Haven Medical Outreach and Angkor Wildlife & Aquarium, along with their wonderful teams and volunteers, made this day one to remember.

This is what inclusion looks like and it's absolutely beautiful.



Australian Manufacturing Week

Wheelchairs For Kids Australia was honoured to exhibit at Australian Manufacturing Week in Melbourne, with a booth in the prestigious Manufacturer's Pavilion. We are deeply grateful to Sutton Tools, who support the production of our wheelchairs with high quality Australian made drill bits, they also introduced us to AMTIL (Australian Manufacturing Technology Institute Limited).

AMTIL has been a tremendous supporter, donating proceeds from their golf day, featuring us in their magazine and generously providing our stand at AMW. The event has opened valuable opportunities to build new partnerships and sustainably source materials and expertise for our life changing work.



Greg Hebble & Jenny Prince at The Best of the West 2025

Best of the West Awards

Wheelchairs For Kids Australia CEO Greg Hebble and dedicated volunteer Jenny Prince attended The Best of The West Awards, proudly sponsored by The Agency WA and supported by 9 News.

With so many inspiring charities and West Australians making a difference, it was a true honour to be named co-winners of this award alongside Operation Sunshine WA, an achievement made even more special with a \$25,000 prize. This prize will help more wheelchairs roll out of our factory transforming even more lives.

North Beach RSL Visits Wheelchairs for Kids

Thank you to the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch for their recent visit to the Wheelchairs For Kids factory, accompanied by WFKA Patron, Graham Edwards AM. Visitors walked away with a deeper appreciation of the impact these wheelchairs have on children across the globe.

Br. Olly was also the guest speaker at North Beach RSL, where over 130 attendees gathered to hear his inspiring story and vision for Wheelchairs For Kids Australia.



Sewing Kindness: David Moller's Generosity

David Moller has been making a difference in the lives of many by repairing and gifting sewing machines to refugees and those who cannot afford one. His generosity enables people to sew their own clothes, offering them dignity and self-sufficiency.

Recently, David extended his kindness to Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, donating two sewing machines to our dedicated group of sewing ladies. These machines will be used in the factory to make seat covers, headrests and support covers for the wheelchairs.

A heartfelt thank you to David for his generosity. His help ensures that every child who receives a wheelchair gets the comfort they deserve.

Vale

With heartfelt gratitude, we bid farewell to our dedicated volunteers:
Dave Eddy (2012 - 2018) | **Howard Seddon** (2012 - 2016) | **Jenny Jansen** (1999 - 2018)

News from WFKA East Coast

AMTIL's Generous Support

In February, AMTIL (Australian Manufacturing Technology Institute Limited) held their 2025 Golf Tournament at the beautiful Riversdale Golf Course in Mt Waverley, Victoria, with 120 players teeing off.

For the first time, a charity was included in the event and Wheelchairs For Kids Australia was the lucky recipient. This wonderful opportunity came about thanks to the support of our manufacturing suppliers and the determined efforts of our East Coast Fundraising Team, led by Rotarians Russell Hayes and Grant Klaaysen.

During the luncheon, our team shared the story of WFKA. The message clearly hit home, with \$2,661 raised on the day and AMTIL generously topping that up with a \$3,000 donation. That's over 20 life changing wheelchairs.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone at AMTIL, their sponsors and of course to Russell and Grant for their ongoing dedication.



Wheelathon – Mount Eliza Primary School



Mount Eliza Primary School's EarlyAct club is a vibrant group of young changemakers, guided by their mentor Grade 6 teacher Lynsey Breen and supported by the Rotary Club of Mount Eliza.

On the 4th April the school held a wheelathon that brought the whole school together. The WFKA East Coast team brought their two wheelchair trailers and the day started with a school assembly, where students watched a replay of Br. Olly Pickett receiving his Senior Australian of the Year award, an inspiring way to start the event.

The wheelathon took place on a large open area on the school grounds. The students did an amazing job, raising \$5,720, enough to fund 21 wheelchairs, representing one for each grade. A wonderful effort by everyone involved!

Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise Golf Day

On Monday 17th March, our East Coast team proudly took part in the Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise's annual Businessmen's Golf Day, marking our tenth year at this great event!

As always, our volunteers were busy selling raffle tickets to the many golfers taking part, with all proceeds contributing to the day's overall fundraising efforts.

We're thrilled to be part of this ongoing partnership.

A Special Family Visit and a Rotary Surprise

While catching up with family in Balnarring Melbourne, Br. Olly was treated to a meaningful surprise at the local Sunday market, where members of the Rotary Club of Hastings Westernport were collecting donations at the entry gate in support of Wheelchairs For Kids Australia. The club generously contributes around \$1,100 to WFKA quarterly, a wonderful ongoing commitment.



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)	4924	PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2225	ZAMBIA	2704
AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	30	BALI	2516	BOUGAINVILLE	6	ZIMBABWE	487
COCOS IS.	1	FLORES IS.	20	PERU	2	63,394	
BANGLADESH	671	JAVA	1805	PHILIPPINES	2096		
BELARUS	131	LOMBOK	547	ROMANIA	132	2024/2025 Financial Year Dispatch	
BHUTAN	8	SALATIGA	8	RWANDA	516		
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	4093	SOLOMON IS.	368	NOV	340
BURKINA FASO	164	KIRIBATI	338	SOMALIA	332	DEC	166
BURUNDI	24	LAOS	90	SOMALILAND	160	JAN	330
CAMBODIA	1433	LEBANON	673	SOUTH AFRICA	123	FEB	480
CAMEROON	1	LIBERIA	181	SOUTH KOREA	20	MAR	460
CANADA	2	LIBYA	340	SRI LANKA	2209	APR	450
CHINA	1746	MADAGASCAR	76	SUDAN	62	MAY	510
HONG KONG	1	MALAWI	3388	SYRIA	507	JUN	
COOK ISLANDS	5	MALAYSIA	7	TAIWAN	50	TOTAL	4088
D.R. OF CONGO	1072	MALDIVES	4	TANZANIA	3620		
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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Partners/Sponsors:



MinterEllison.



Bill & Iolanda Gibbins



Yes, I want to help set the wheels in motion

You gift today will help set a mobility-impaired child on the path to a better life.



Thank you so much friend for you past support! Please don't feel any pressure to make a gift today if the timing is not right.

I would like to donate a set of wheels for \$79

\$49 \$118 \$275 Or my choice \$ _____

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Please complete your details and post in the envelope provided

Please find a cheque made payable to: Wheelchairs For Kids Australia

By electronic transfer: BSB 016494 ACCOUNT 425 457 815
Please email the amount with your name and address so we can send you a receipt to info@wheelchairsforkids.org

Please debit my credit card: Visa Mastercard Amex

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Name on Card: _____ Expiry: /

Signature: _____

My Details: Title Mr Mrs Miss Dr

First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Postal Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Mobile: _____

Please send me information about leaving a gift in my Will to Wheelchairs For Kids Australia

Ways to make a gift today

 Complete this form and post it back to Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, PO Box 1175, Wangara DC, WA 6947

 Scan the QR code using your smart phone camera or visit: shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/Wheels-in-Motion-25

 Call our office on (08) 9409 3633 to donate over the phone. 8.30am to 2.30pm AWST Monday to Friday. Please have your credit card ready.

Please scan to donate securely online



Wheelchairs For Kids
Giving freedom & mobility worldwide

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

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