

New Patron Brings Power of Possibility



L to R : CEO Greg Hebble, Factory Manager Olly Pickett, Graham Edwards and Board Chairman Jim Joseph

Wheelchairs for Kids Australia

is both excited and pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Graham Edwards AM as our Patron, marking a significant moment in the organisation's commitment to enhancing the lives of children with disabilities.

Graham, a bilateral leg amputee, epitomises the transformative impact of assistive technology on the lives of individuals with

disabilities. His rich career, spanning military service, political leadership and tireless advocacy, aligns seamlessly with the mission & values of WFKA.

Graham brings a wealth of lived experience and a deep commitment to helping people through his various government and community roles. He was a

parliamentarian with the State Legislative Council from 1983 to 1997 and Federal Member of the House of Representatives in the seat of Cowan from 1998 to 2003 and has had a long association with the RSL.

Reflecting his extensive community service to both veterans and people with disability, Graham was awarded the Order of Australia 2012 and WA

Senior of the Year 2016.

After retiring in 2007, Graham dedicated almost two years to volunteering in the WFKA factory. This firsthand experience allowed him to witness the entire wheelchair production process and see the profound impact on children's lives.

Graham envisions raising the profile of WFKA and garnering increased support from the business community. His goal is to export more wheelchairs to children in need globally and make a lasting positive impact on their lives.

Our CEO, Greg says, "Graham's patronage will undoubtedly strengthen our mission to make a difference in the lives of mobility impaired children and their families around the world. He also brings real world experience of being mobility impaired and how having a fit-for-purpose wheelchair makes all the difference to being able to participate fully in home and community life."

Twice the happiness

Semarang, Java Indonesia September 2023.

These twin girls travelled several hours to Semarang so they could each receive a WFKA wheelchair from Global Village Foundation Bali. Their mother gratefully thanks Wheelchairs for Kids Australia and Global Village Foundation Bali for the support which now enables her daughters to learn to wheel themselves independently and play with their friends.



UPDATE – CEO Greg Hebble



How time flies! It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner, less than four weeks away. The past three months have been brimming with opportunities and successes.

Towards the end of August, we seized the chance to join our long-term partner, Toolmart, at the Dowerin Field Day spanning two days. Our marquee was strategically set up right in front of Toolmart's massive tent, providing excellent exposure. The experience was immensely beneficial, and we eagerly anticipate repeating it in 2024.

In mid-September, I had the privilege of spending two days in the wheatbelt region, collecting funds

from our donation boxes and tins. On the second day, I was hosted by the Narembeen Autumn Club, facilitating a presentation to the local primary school and about 50 residents at their club rooms. The response was overwhelmingly positive. It's heartening to see such generosity from a small town, contributing toys, rugs and a substantial financial contribution to our organisation.

In late October, WFKA was the fortunate beneficiary of the Occupational Therapist (OT) Week Fundraising Quiz Night organised by OTSG and OT Australia.



We were graciously allocated a table for 10 on the night. The event was a delightful experience, filled with a vibrant atmosphere. We deeply appreciate OTWA's support



and we are truly honoured to have their endorsement in our mission to make a positive impact on the lives of children worldwide. Their generosity will undoubtedly go a long way in providing mobility and independence to children in need.

Amidst all the aforementioned activities and thanks to the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers, we had the opportunity to participate in and advocate for our cause at various events. These included car shows, shopping centres, artisan markets and the recent Jacaranda festival. Once more, a heartfelt thank

you for making this possible!

I want to also take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your continued support.

“Wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!”

Cheers, Greg

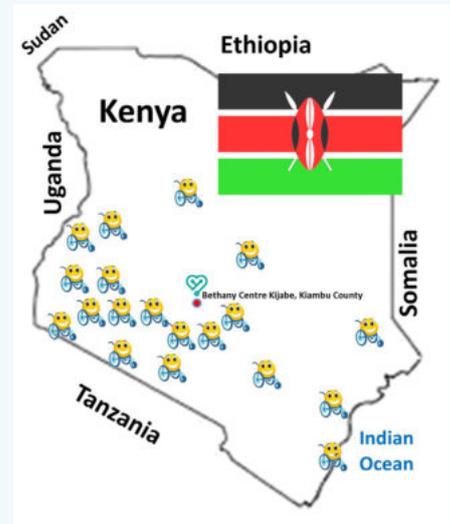


Bethany kids in Kenya



- Play and socialisation.
- Increased self-esteem.
- Inclusion through accessibility and mobility.
- Increased health standards through proper sitting posture hence reduced deformity formation.
- Exposure to light and sun. Most children were always kept inside.
- Wheelchair attracted Respect and attention to the child.
- The dolls and gifts make the children feel attached to the wheelchair hence increased tolerance.
- Increased acceptance among family members towards the child.

Due to the attractive appearance of WFKA wheelchairs, community members have come to realise the importance for care of the children with disabilities. This has helped mobilise, sensitise and create more awareness of disabilities among community members.”



In April, 2023, 340 wheelchairs were sent to Bethany Kids in Kenya. The following is an extract from a Report received in October from Assistive Technology Manager, Joab Matumbai, who is trained and approved by WHO in wheelchair service management and basic wheelchair service provision:

“The Wheelchairs For Kids Australia (WFKA) wheelchairs came at the right time when the need was very high among children living with disabilities. Most school students in wheelchairs could only move around but their wheelchairs were not accommodative enough to allow them to write and learn with ease. According to the WHO guidelines on wheelchair service provision, a wheelchair should always meet all the client’s needs and for sure the WFKA wheelchairs have holistically met all the needs of the children as stated below:



Recalling a heartwarming outcome organised by one of WFKA's wonderful supporters

In May 2012, Grant Pierce arranged with Montero Mining to take 160 wheelchairs to Tanzania. These wheelchairs would be given to needy children as they were identified in the Morogoro Region.

A mother of two daughters, Salome Rashid Nassor, lived in a remote part of the region with her children after her husband died. Her first daughter was born with both physical and

mental disability and Salome had carried her on her back for 22 years

There was never a real hope of her ever getting a wheelchair.

Thanks to the volunteers at WFKA who made, assembled and packed the wheelchair, the supporters who supplied the toy and rug along with Grant and Montero Mining the lives of this little family were changed for the better.



Our valued partners

Toolmart: 45 years of excellence in tools and community support



For over four decades, Toolmart has been your trusted partner for all things tools and equipment in Western Australia. With a rich history of over 45 years, we've consistently delivered top-quality power, cordless, and petrol tools to help you get the job done. But we're more than just a tools supplier; we're deeply committed to making a positive impact in our community.

We understand the importance of having the right tools and equipment to complete your projects efficiently and effectively. Our extensive inventory features a wide range of all the tools a serious Tradie, farmer or industrial business will need. Tools from renowned brands such as Makita, Metabo, Kinchrome, Sidchrome, Milwaukee and more - ensuring that you have access to the latest and most reliable technology.

Toolmart also have a full workshop and can service what we sell as well as providing spare parts for the same items. Our 4 word credo is Sales, Service, Spares, Repairs!

Beyond our commitment to providing top-notch tools, we are proud supporters of the "Wheelchairs for Kids" charity and other children's charities. For many years, Toolmart has contributed to this wonderful cause, which provides mobility and freedom to less fortunate children around the world.

Over 20 years ago, a heartwarming story unfolded when Olly Picket, the Manager at "Wheelchairs for Kids," approached Toolmart's founder, Kim Cowcher, for help in setting up the charity. At that time, they needed tools to make a difference in the lives of children. With the generous support of Makita and Metabo, Toolmart provided the required tools at little to no cost to assist the charity in its noble mission.



As Toolmart has grown over the years, so has our commitment to supporting this worthwhile charity. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to explore the world, learn, and play. By sponsoring wheelchairs and providing tools to



"Wheelchairs for Kids," we've helped bring smiles to the faces of children who face mobility challenges. This heartwarming story remains at the core of our dedication to the cause.

Volunteer factory area coordinator – Allan Watson

Allan started working on the family farm at Nungarin, in the Central Wheatbelt, after leaving school in 1954. In 1960 he married and moved, with his wife Myra, to another farm at Bonnie Rock until they moved into Mukinbudin when their son got married in 1988.

He was elected to the Board of Grain Company CBH Ltd in 1986 and in 1996 was elected Chairman of the Company and continued in that roll until his retirement in 2004. During that time, Allan was admitted as a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a nominee for the Countryman Royal Agricultural Society Achiever of the Year Award.

After he retired, he and Myra traveled Australia by caravan for several years.

Allan recalls that, in late 2012, his granddaughter, Olivia, caught him watching a movie on TV at 10.00 am



and told him to get off his backside and do something. Next day she emailed him a list of nearby Men Sheds.

Around that time Myra met Barbara Brown, a Volunteer at WFK, who suggested he go see Olly Pickett.

Allan sums up what followed his meeting with Olly in the following words “That was the start of what

has been for me nearly 11 years of meeting so many wonderful people.

Once in my first year, I woke with a backache and decided to stay in bed and give WFK a miss.

A few minutes later I thought of Olly at work on crutches or in a wheelchair. I was very soon out of bed and on my way. Olly inspires us all and makes WFK a great place to volunteer our time.

To see so many friendly people smile and laugh so much is a joy to be part of.

To see so many photos and videos of disabled children benefiting from our work makes it all so worthwhile. I feel we all benefit, health wise, from keeping active at this time in our lives.”

The assuming of responsibility for a section of the fabrication process in the factory, by Allan, is very much appreciated.

Volunteering excellence!!

On Friday November 3 the Wanneroo Business Association Awards were presented.

Of the fourteen categories, Wheelchairs For Kids Australia (WFKA) and Volunteer Factory Manager, Br. Olly Pickett, were honoured to be finalists in the Community Engagement Excellence Award and the Business Leader of the Year Award respectively.

The following acknowledgement, by the Wanneroo Business Association, speaks for itself.

“The Wanneroo Business Association would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on your outstanding achievements as the **Winner of the Community Engagement Excellence award and for Br. Olly Pickett as the Runner-Up of the Business Leader of the Year!!**

Your dedication and excellence in your field have not gone unnoticed and we are proud to have you as a member of our community.

Once again, congratulations on these remarkable achievements. We look forward to witnessing your continued excellence in the future.”

CEO, Greg Hebble had these thoughts for all volunteers associated with WFKA.

“The above awards are great recognition for the incredible work that each and everyone of you carry out as our Team of Sensational Volunteers!

Congratulations and you should all be very proud of your individual contributions that have made these awards possible. Please ensure you take the time to reflect on what you have achieved and don't hesitate to pat yourselves on the back.

Thanks again for your ongoing commitment to and support of WFKA and as stated above, your efforts “have not gone unnoticed”.



Wheelchair Wheelathon

Derinya Primary School Frankston

An incredible outcome from a one day Wheelathon at Derinya PS initiated and sponsored by The Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise and actively supported by the Interact Club at Frankston High School which is nearby. Derinya has over seven hundred students and the school student leaders agreed to an ambitious target of financing 39 wheelchairs which represented one for each class. Their mentor; Assistant Principal Stuart Charles was very actively involved and turned the Wheelathon into a school celebration as during September the school sports oval was being



resurfaced into a new athletics track. Two wheelchair trailers were at school early with forty wheelchairs for the students to experience.

The event was run on the new oval on 20th October and about fifty parents joined in the morning school assembly. Presentations were provided to the assembly on the importance of raising funds to assist children in less fortunate

circumstances living in overseas countries.

The Wheelathon event raised the amazing sum of \$21,972 funds to cover cost of eighty wheelchairs which was more than double the original target. In addition two members of Frankston Sunrise Rotary toiled for a few hours cooking a sausage sizzle for every student in the school which was a major effort and profit from this covered three more wheelchairs.

The event was a milestone for WFK in being the first major usage of QR code for Wheelathon donations to be made via smart phone. 724 separate QR code donations were made over a fortnight including eleven individual donations that covered the whole cost of a wheelchair.

Rotary Club of Castlemaine Wheelchair Wheelathon Week

This was an initiative of Rotary Club member Hugh Forrest with arrangements commencing months earlier. Three Primary Schools in Castlemaine agreed to the Rotary club plan to visit each school with one of the WFK wheelchair trailers to run Wheelathons all in the one week commencing 23rd October.

The three schools are all in the smaller schools category and the QR code was used effectively and the outcome was about \$3,000 to cover eleven wheelchairs.

Before the wheelchair trailer was returned to Melbourne it was with Rotary Club of Bendigo where the wheelchairs were used for one Wheelathon event at California Gully Primary School which resulted in funds for one wheelchair.

In 2024 the WFK East Coast team are going to encourage country Rotary Clubs in Victoria to set up similar

Wheelchair Wheelathon week-long events by borrowing one of the wheelchair trailers which are stored in Melbourne. This would result in increased donations for more wheelchairs. Any Victorian Rotary Club interested in running their own International/Youth Wheelathon event please contact Russell Hayes on 0414 600 721.



Wheelchair Wheelathon at Coldstream Primary School

On 10th November Coldstream PS ran their fourth Wheelathon and the students were very enthusiastic about riding the wheelchairs to support provision of more wheelchairs to children in need in less fortunate circumstances. The target set was one wheelchair per grade in the school and this was achieved. The 20 Pre-school students at a nearby Early Learning Centre joined in the Wheelathon with the Primary School students. A great day was had by all with the members of Rotary Club of Wandin providing a sausage sizzle lunch which added \$100 to the funds raised.



Wheelchairs dispatched since 1996

AFGHANISTAN	1	GUINEA	1	PAKISTAN	848	VIETNAM	8056	
ALBANIA	40	INDIA	368	PALESTINE - GAZA	656	YEMEN	166	
ANGOLA	50	INDONESIA (TOTAL)	3904	PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2225	ZAMBIA	2024	
ARMENIA	302	BALI	2516	BOUGAINVILLE	6	ZIMBABWE	487	
AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	28	FLORES IS.	20	PERU	2	57,932		
COCOS IS.	1	JAVA	785	PHILIPPINES	1790			
BANGLADESH	671	LOMBOK	547	ROMANIA	132	2023/2024 Financial Year Dispatch		
BELARUS	131	SALATIGA	8	RWANDA	166			
BHUTAN	8	SUMATRA	28	SAMOA	231	JUL		506
BORNEO	340	IRAN	22	SEYCHELLES	60			AUG
BOSNIA	100	IRAQ	1949	SIERRA LEONE	495	SEPT	154	
BOTSWANA	1	JORDAN	271	SINGAPORE	1	OCT	340	
BRAZIL	2	KENYA	3081	SOLOMON IS.	364	NOV	320	
BULGARIA	25	KIRIBATI	338	SOMALIA	332	DEC		
BURKINA FASO	164	LAOS	90	SOMALILAND	110	JAN		
BURUNDI	24	LEBANON	673	SOUTH AFRICA	123	FEB		
CAMBODIA	1265	LIBERIA	181	SOUTH KOREA	20	MAR		
CAMEROON	1	LIBYA	340	SRI LANKA	2207	APR		
CANADA	2	MADAGASCAR	76	SUDAN	60	MAY		
CHINA	1746	MALAWI	2544	SYRIA	507	JUN		
COOK ISLANDS	5	MALAYSIA	7	TAIWAN	50	TOTAL	1824	
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	1092	TUVALU	6			
BA	2	MOROCCO	1635	UGANDA	2316			
NADI	8	MOZAMBIQUE	439	UKRAINE (TOTAL)	105			
ONO - I - LAU	10	MYANMAR	3175	CHERNIVTSI	25			
SAVU SAVU	40	NAURU	10	CHERNOBYL	60			
SUVA	630	NEPAL	352	USA	2			
GHANA	234	NIGERIA	456	VANUATU	383			

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Major Sponsors:



Here's how you can gift a set of wheels to a child this Festive Season



Embrace the spirit of Christmas with a gift that goes beyond the ordinary. Your donation today will help us purchase the vital materials that make-up our specialised, all-terrain, fully adjustable wheelchairs.

You can join us in transforming a child's life by donating a component of the build or by gifting the total investment for one wheelchair built by 100% volunteer labour.

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 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. **Fill in the donation slip below**, detach and post to Wheelchairs For Kids, PO Box 1175, Wangara DC, WA. 6947
5. **Donate online** by scanning the QR code at right.



 **\$29** provides the front tray, rear carry basket and accessories.

 **\$49** provides the cushions, foam supports, padding and strapping.

 **\$79** provides the chassis and wheels.

 **\$118** provides the frame, brakes and footrests.

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

DONATE SECURELY ONLINE www.shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/wheels4christmas 

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF MOBILITY

The easiest way to securely pledge your gift is online via www.wheelchairforkids.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 or over are tax deductible. A receipt will then be sent.

For our Privacy Policy visit www.wheelchairforkids.org