



# Wheelchairs For Kids®

Giving freedom & mobility worldwide

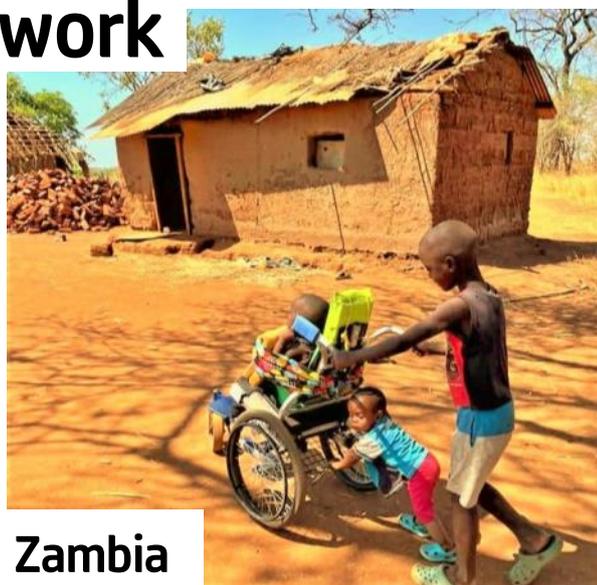
## ***THE DRILL***

MAY - AUGUST 2022

VOL 19 ISSUE 101



## Teamwork



Wangara WA - Zambia

## Bibbulmun Trekkers - Heroes to Two Charities

In July two trekking buddies, **Debbie Lorking** and **Annamarie Threlfall**, decided to step up and step out in support for two charities - Hero Hunter Foundation and Wheelchairs for Kids.

In September 2021 **Kate Bettenay** and **Dave Madden** suffered the unimaginable loss of their little hero 8 year old son **Hunter** who lost his brave five year battle with cancer. The **Hero Hunter Foundation** was formed in early 2022 to provide support for families with a child undergoing oncology treatment.



After 63 days and 1000km on the Bibbulmun Track the two "Bibby Trekkers" and their amazing support team were able to raise over \$6600 for each of the charities.

From the point of view of Wheelchairs For Kids this means that 26 families, with a child living with disability, will receive a wheelchair and hopefully a change in their life for the better.

L to R: Debbie Lorking, Gordon Hudson, Brett Lorking, Beppie de Kuyser, Dave Madden, Olly Pickett, Annamarie Threlfall, Kate Bettenay

Big thanks to the Trekkie "Twins", Debbie and Annamarie.





## **A very warm welcome and introduction to our new CEO [Greg Hebble](#)**

Raised in the northern suburbs of Perth by his hard working single mother from the age of 7, Greg learned at an early age of the daily challenge and difficulties that many people face in making ends meet. In many ways, the lessons learnt from him seeing his mother successfully raise three boys in complex circumstances have driven Greg to initially wanting to give back in some way and ultimately to serving the community by helping people living with disadvantage.

Greg has held various leadership roles for more than 25 years in the WA and NSW food sales, manufacturing and distribution industry ; working with companies such as Coles, Nestle, Simplot and Masters/Pura milk dairy. More recently he was the CEO at Foodbank WA for 12 years, transforming that organization into a leader in addressing food insecurity needs across WA and Australia.

Greg has also been involved in other community organisations for many years; most notably with the YMCA where he held various committee and board positions including being a Past President of YMCA Australia. He is passionate about encouraging collaboration between organisations and the wider community. He is an advocate for the development of partnerships with businesses and aid agencies to ensure the welfare sector delivers effective and timely support to those in need.

After more than a decade of working with organisations serving the community, Greg has experienced first-hand the invaluable contribution of volunteers and the importance of the roles they play. He is committed on creating occasions and activities to recognize their commitment and ongoing contributions.

### **A Message from Greg.**

My first 4 weeks...

Firstly, can I share with you how much of a privilege it is to be given the opportunity to lead such a fantastic organisation of committed and skilled volunteers.

I'm so excited to be part of the Team and I'm looking forward to working alongside everyone involved, including our many partners, suppliers and donors.

I'd also like to thank everyone involved in making me so welcome and showing me how we do things around here; it has been enlightening and I've gone home every night inspired about what is achieved on a daily and weekly basis.

I would also like to thank the incredible [Gordon Hudson](#) for his amazing leadership and guidance to Wheelchairs For Kids Australia. Gordon, you have done an amazing job with your Team of volunteers and I look forward to walking along side you as I try to extract the many years of knowledge and experience that you have to share.

Well done and congratulations on a huge legacy you have created.

There were many highlights within my first month but none more than hosting the current Rotary 9455 District Governor, [Ineke Oliver](#) (at right) on a factory tour.

We look forward to further enhancing our current relationship with all of Rotary and other community groups with the support of our very own Rotary Club of Scarborough.

4 weeks down and many more to come.

Cheers

*Greg*



## The Material Cost of Our *Adjusta* Wheelchair

In order to maximize the benefit of donations towards the production of our wheelchairs 72% of the cost is spent on components imported from China.

Local sources provide all aluminium components, a small fraction of the fasteners required and a small part of both the tooling and the extra cushioning provided with each wheelchair.

The cost of materials in the wheelchair, opposite, currently stands at \$250 of which \$70 is spent locally and the balance on imported components.

Several elements involved in the complete package that leaves the factory are donated by either individuals or businesses or supplied at reduced cost.



## TWO WHEELCHAIRS FOR FIJI

In May two wheelchairs were taken to Ba, a town in north-western Fiji.

Wheelchairs For Kids factory Volunteer, **Avinasha ( Nash ) Swami**, with the cooperation of Qantas and the Western Disabled Peoples' Association in Fiji, was able to organise two life-changing wheelchairs to a young girl and an older gentleman. Nash sums it up as follows

*".....I thank Qantas for their kind support in getting the wheelchairs from Perth to Fiji without charge. Also ATS and Fiji customs for their ground handling and clearance on the same day of arrival.*

*Thank you to **Deepak Tahal** for providing accommodation and meals, **Raj Karan** for delivery of the car to the airport from Ba and all the volunteers who assisted me to assemble the chairs and talk about them at our presentation in SV College.*

*Thanks also to **Western Disabled Peoples' Association** and **Rama Krishna Mission** for supporting our training and presentation".*



The older gentleman (below) also needs a wheelchair to get around. He supports his parents as a hard working vendor at the Ba market and has built his own home. He has never relied on hand-outs.



Nash (above left) and the young girl who is totally dependent on a wheelchair to get her to school. Her mum takes great care of her with the support of the extended family.

# Wheelchairs in Malawi



"My name is **Dorika Kampira**, I am a wife and mother of three girls between the ages of 9 and 17. I live in Ndirande township in the city of Blantyre with my family.

My daughter, 9-year-old **Alinafe Kampira**, was born normal but she had jaundice at three months which the doctors said affected her brain. She cannot talk, crawl, or walk. My husband and her siblings love her so much, but that love could not afford to buy her a wheelchair.

I sell snacks at the market and the profit is just enough to buy food stuffs for the family. Now you can understand why today is the happiest day of my life because Motivation gave my daughter a wheelchair. Can you see how happy she is?

I have never seen her so happy! There will definitely be a celebration at the house tonight. This wheelchair has given her independence, she will be able to sit here and play with her friends. I will also be able to leave her at the house knowing her siblings can easily wheel her around."

LEFT - Dorika and daughter Alinafe.

Malawi traditional pattern



BELOW - Patricia and son Jeffrey

"My name is **Patricia Likoswe**, I come from Nambala Village in Phalombe District Southern Malawi. I am a single parent, so I live with my mother and four children. My son, 10-year-old **Jeffrey Mataika** was born like this. The hospital explained to me why he is like this, but I cannot remember the English word they used.

This is the first time my son has received a wheelchair since he was born.

You can see his excitement.

This wheelchair will bring a huge difference in his life. He will be able to play with other children. You know, carrying him on my back was easier when he was young, but he is becoming heavier as he grows. It was very hard for me to carry him all the time. The roads at home are not wheelchair friendly but I will see what I can do to make it so that at least our compound is wheelchair accessible. With this wheelchair, I will be able to leave him at home and go to do my daily piece of work which supports my family."



The first shipment, of 166 wheelchairs, went to Malawi in 2015.

Since then another 2378 wheelchairs have been donated.



# Mobility with Dignity ...

## the Reward for 11 Hour Journey Across Java



These two children, along with 23 others, travelled by bus for 11 hours through the night from Madiun in Central Java to the South Eastern coast where they received our wheelchairs from **Global Village Foundation** ( GVF ) who have been a distributor for us in Bali, since 2016.

The children and their parents were overjoyed to finally have wheelchairs which will be duly serviced by GVF in Madiun as they distribute more of the wheelchairs in Java where they are so desperately needed.

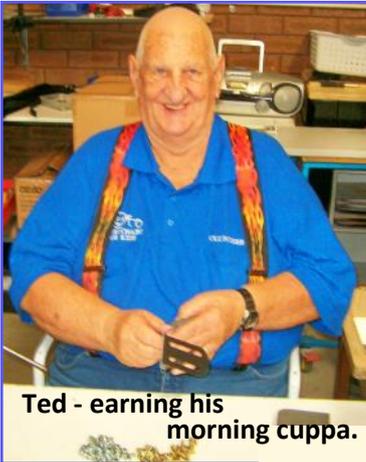
*“Matur nuwun Kursi Roda Kanggo Bocah-bocah”*

*(Thank you Wheelchairs For Kids )*

## Memories from our Yesteryears

There are **Union Shop Stewards** and then there was **Ted Melvin** - the one and **ONLY** Wheelchairs For Kids "Union Shop Steward". Ted was always ready to hear shop floor complaints - real or imaginary, ( always the latter ) provided you could get a word in.

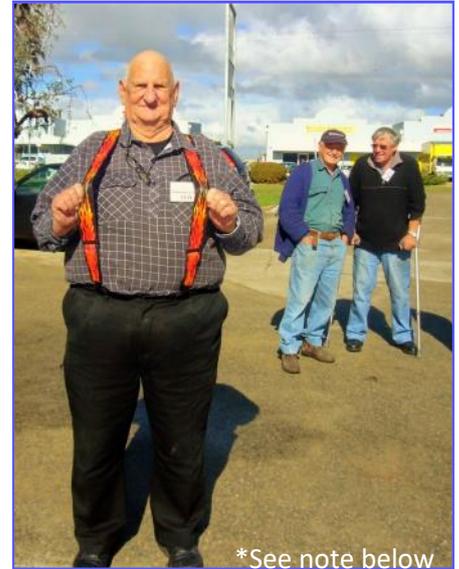
Ted had been around the block a few times and knew a thing or two about a thing or two. His wisdom and humour were daily highlights in the factory and it mattered not that a lot of the time we were not sure what was wisdom and what was humour.



Ted - earning his morning cuppa.

Ted energetically embraced his position and rightly sought the respect that his braces demanded. Whether he got it or not usually depended on whether one worked out his wisdom from his humour.

**Seriously though...** In his 14+ years of wonderful service until April 2012, when he moved to Tassie, Ted helped steer the project through its early years. His ever readiness to 'get on with it and get things done' helped set the tone for the future of the project. Much is owed to Ted, a pioneer Volunteer of Wheelchairs For Kids, whose energy and generosity helped place the project on firm footings. Mighty big thanks, Ted, and best wishes.



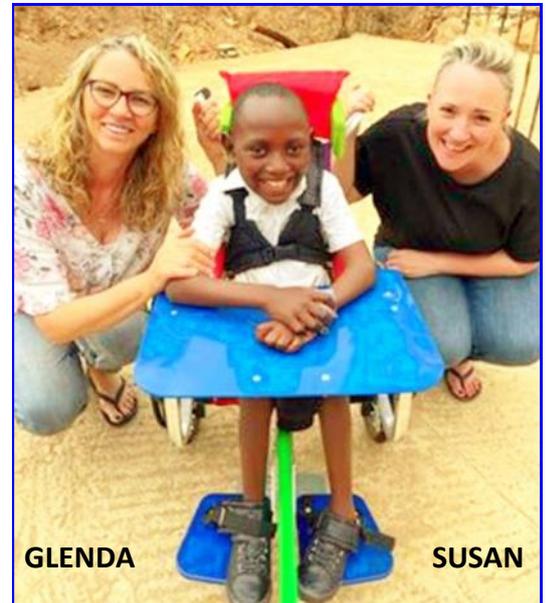
\*See note below

\* Fellow pioneer Volunteer **Tom Thompson** and **Olly** admire Ted's braces.-Ed



INNOCENT  
& FRIEND

### A Wheelchair for Innocent through Sheka ( Smile ) Africa in Uganda



GLEND A

SUSAN

"WFK kindly donated a wheelchair to us late last year and we took it with us to Uganda when we travelled there in January. My name is **Susan** and together with my friend **Glenda** we founded the charity **Sheka Africa** a couple of years ago to have children in rural Uganda sponsored to go to school. **Innocent** was discovered by the director of the Future Generation Nursery and Primary School in an outlying village. His family explained he was developing normally but after becoming ill he lost the ability to walk. His only way of moving was to drag himself around on the ground. His family was so happy to know he'd be sponsored to go to school and have the chances in life that all children deserve. While trying to source a chair that would serve Innocent's needs and cope with the rough terrain in rural Uganda we came across Wheelchairs for Kids.

We are so very grateful to you for the donation of this fantastic chair. It has changed his life. "

Glenda & Susan

# Wheelchair Distribution since 1998

	AFGHANISTAN	1		INDONESIA (TOTAL)	2884		ROMANIA	132
	ALBANIA	40		BALI	1836		RWANDA	166
	ANGOLA	50		FLORES IS.	20		SAMOA	231
	ARMENIA	302		JAVA	445		SIERRA LEONE	495
	AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	25		LOMBOK	547		SINGAPORE	1
	COCOS IS.	1		SALATIGA	8		SOLOMON IS.	364
	BANGLADESH	671		SUMATRA	28		SOMALIA	332
	BELARUS	131		JORDAN	271		SOMALILAND	110
	BHUTAN	8		KENYA	2576		SOUTH AFRICA	123
	BOSNIA	100		KIRIBATI	172		SOUTH KOREA	20
	BOTSWANA	1		LAOS	90		SRI LANKA	2207
	BRAZIL	2		LEBANON	673		SUDAN	60
	BULGARIA	25		LIBERIA	181		SYRIA	507
	BURKINA FASO	164		LIBYA	340		TAIWAN	50
	BURUNDI	22		MADAGASCAR	56		TANZANIA	2928
	CAMEROON	1		MALAWI	2544		THAILAND	336
	CAMBODIA	1092		MALAYSIA	7		TIMOR LESTE	1156
	CANADA	2		MALDIVES	4		TONGA	16
	CHINA	1745		MAURITANIA	75		TUVALU	6
	COOK ISLANDS	5		MAURITIUS	211		UGANDA	2316
	D.R. OF CONGO	1072		MOLDOVA	40		UKRAINE (TOTAL)	105
	EGYPT	665		MONGOLIA	938		CHERNIVTSI	25
	EL SALVADOR	1		MOROCCO	1149		CHERNOBYL	60
	ETHIOPIA	100		MOZAMBIQUE	439		USA	2
	FIJI (TOTAL)	682		MYANMAR	2835		VANUATU	383
	ONO - I - LAU	10		NAURU	10		VIETNAM	8056
	SAVU SAVU	40		NEPAL	186		YEMEN	166
	SUVA	630		NIGERIA	456		ZAMBIA	1684
	BA	2		PAKISTAN	848		ZIMBABWE	485
	GHANA	210		PALESTINE - GAZA	656			
	GUINEA	1		PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2225			
	INDIA	368		BOUGAINVILLE	6			
	IRAN	22		PERU	2			
	IRAQ	1949		PHILIPPINES	1542			

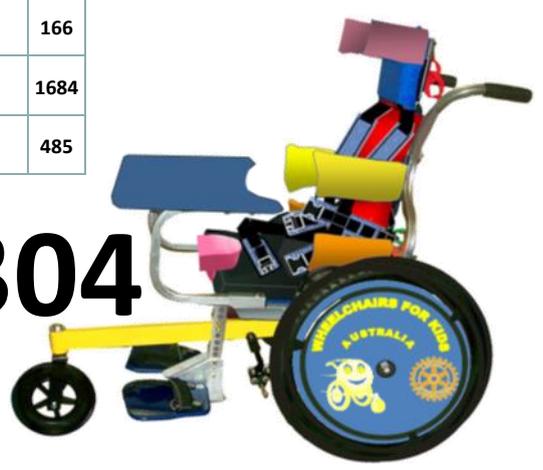
## 2022 PRODUCTION

JAN	220
FEB	278
MAR	242
APR	313
MAY	326
JUN	282
JUL	86
AUG	400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2147</b>

Thank you to the wonderful community at **Southwood Boys Grammar** situated in Ringwood, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, who held a wheelathon late last year and raised over \$6,200 towards the cost of producing these wheelchairs.

We salute this remarkable effort from a school of 200 students. Bravo.

**53,304**



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



For \$250 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.

*This gift can change the life of a child living with a disability as well as the life of every family member.*



- ❖ **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](http://www.wheelchairsforkids.org)
  4. **By electronic transfer** to BSB 016 494 ACCOUNT 4254 578 15 and please email your amount, name and address for us to correctly receipt your generosity. See E-MAIL below.
- ❖ 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 listed below.

### CONTACT INFORMATION :

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### *Major Sponsors*



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



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