

The Drill



Wheelchairs For Kids®
Giving freedom & mobility worldwide

April - May 2026
Vol 23 Issue 116

Local community spirit

Sunday 19th April was one of those days that just felt good from start to finish, as Wheelchairs For Kids Australia joined SKLPC and the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Perth community in Meadow Springs for a fun-filled fundraising lapathon.

Our team of volunteers, Patel Daksha, Lee-Anne Ashley, Lindsay Gleeson, Mike and Karen Kane, arrived with the WFKA trailer loaded with 24 wheelchairs and they didn't stand still for long. In no time at all, kids, parents and even a few competitive adults were off racing around the oval, clocking up laps, sharing laughs and getting a real feel for what our wheelchairs are all about.

The SKLPC WA Youth Wing, a group of young and motivated members, brought their infectious enthusiasm to the day, making it a whole lot of fun for everyone involved.

There was such a lively energy as the community came together, encouraging and cheering each other on, getting behind a cause that changes lives.

And the result? An incredible **\$25,100** raised. Thanks to this amazing result, more children will have the freedom to move, join in and experience more of the wonderful world around them.

To finish the day, the team and community shared a delicious meal and enjoyed a beautiful glimpse of Hindu culture, a generous and heartfelt experience that added even more warmth and connection.

We're so thankful to share the day with such a kind and welcoming community.



Haresh Kerai, Mike Kane, Lindsay Gleeson and Lee-Anne Ashley, Kanji Patel



UPDATE – CEO Greg Hebble

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Since March, the global environment has become more complex and increasingly uncertain. Escalating tensions in the Middle East have disrupted supply chains, driving higher oil and fuel prices and placing renewed pressure on inflation. These challenges are flowing through to our own operating environment, with many organisations experiencing increased strain across supplier networks, from rising input costs to delays and reduced reliability in global logistics.

The ripple effects are also being felt more broadly. Ongoing conflict and economic pressures are placing significant strain on communities around the world, increasing demand on humanitarian organisations and in some cases, impacting the capacity and resilience of both our current and potential partners.

If you are in a position to assist us in absorbing some of these rising costs, your support would be greatly appreciated. Every contribution truly makes a difference.



Rod Todman, Daniel Pastorelli MLA, Jen Merigan, Tom Nalpon

Despite these challenges, there have been many uplifting moments. As is often the case in difficult times, the strength and generosity of our community shines through. Over the past three months, we have seen an incredible influx of rugs and teddies into the factory. To the organisations and individuals who continue to support us so generously, thank you. Your commitment means so much.

Importantly, we have maintained our momentum, continuing to manufacture and distribute 30 wheelchairs each day. This achievement would simply not be possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers.



Br Olly Pickett & Anne Aly MP

National Volunteer Week, commencing 18 May, gave us a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate their contributions. With the support of Volunteering WA and Lotterywest, we were able to host special morning teas and present each volunteer with a WFKA pen and notepad as a small token of our appreciation.

We were also honoured to welcome a number of guest speakers throughout the week, including Daniel Pastorelli MLA, Hon Rob Horstman MLC, Hon Dr Anne Aly, Federal Minister for International Development, Tina Williams, CEO of Volunteering WA, and Shannon Foster from Lotterywest. We thank them all for taking the time to acknowledge and celebrate our volunteers.

Thank you again for your continued support. With your help, we will keep changing young lives, one wheelchair at a time.

Warm regards,
Greg



Shannon Foster, Br Olly Pickett, Tina Williams

Building Skills in Uganda

In February 2026, physiotherapist Bas Jansen and occupational therapist Lara Jansen travelled to Uganda following the delivery of more than 340 children's wheelchairs through Wheelchairs For Kids Australia and Friends of Kagando.

Hosted at Kagando Hospital, the five-day program trained nine local professionals, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and orthopaedic technicians, in wheelchair assessment, fitting and seating principles. The focus was to build local skills so children receive not just a wheelchair, but the right wheelchair fitted correctly.



Participants completed hands-on training and supervised fittings with children, leaving confident in their new skills. The impact was immediate. Fourteen-year-old twin boys with muscular dystrophy returned to school the day after receiving their wheelchairs. An eight-year-old girl with cerebral



Lara and Bas Jansen

palsy, previously carried everywhere, gained safe and reliable mobility. Another young girl experienced the joy of sitting upright independently for the first time.

The program also introduced 24-hour postural care, helping families understand how positioning improves comfort, function and long-term health. Beyond the training itself, the knowledge gained will continue to support children and families across the region.

Partnerships Delivering Change



Glen Askew, Global Village Foundation Bali

Our friends and distribution partners, Global Village Foundation Bali, have just wrapped up another wonderful wheelchair mission in East Java, fitting 125 WFKA wheelchairs for children across Batu, Malang and Sidoarjo.

Held over five days in April 2026, the program was hosted by Bhakti Luhur, a respected organisation supporting children with disabilities throughout Indonesia. They care for around 2,000 children across more than 400 specialised homes.

During the week, the team was joined by Glen Askew, Australian Consulate General for East and Central Java. His office has supported the shipment of over 1,400 wheelchairs since 2023. He also arrived with a lovely surprise of soft Aussie animal toys that had the kids grinning from ear to ear.

A Little Girl Called Joy

Two-year-old Joy from Malangali, Iringa in Tanzania, is now discovering her young world in comfort thanks to her new WFKA wheelchair.

Joy was born with Cerebral Palsy following a difficult start to life. Her mum, Zaituni, has faced motherhood alone. But a mother's love is powerful and Zaituni works tirelessly taking on casual farm jobs and selling vegetables to support her daughter.

At an outreach clinic run by CCBRT with World Vision Tanzania, Joy was assessed and fitted with her wheelchair. Zaituni also learned how to position Joy comfortably and continue simple exercises at home.

Today, Joy is a happy, supported little girl and her mum has renewed hope and freedom.



Joy & Zaituni

The Right Fit – Lois Moir

A correctly fitted wheelchair makes such a huge impact on the life of a child who is unable to sit or move independently.

It provides comfort, access to the world, opportunities for social interaction and improves their ability to eat, digest food and breathe. When properly fitted, the WFKA ADJUSTA wheelchair can transform the life of a child, as well as positively impact their family and wider community.

With so many adjustments options in the ADJUSTA wheelchair, it is essential that those fitting the wheelchair are well trained. This is where I come in. My name is Lois Moir, I am a retired occupational therapist with over 40 years' experience, primarily working with children with disabilities. My work has included fitting wheelchairs for children with high support needs, along with other assistive technology. The final eight years of my career were spent as a lecturer in the Occupational Therapy program at Edith Cowan University.



Lois Moir



Greg Hebble and Lois Moir - Philippines

For the past 12 years, I've been part of WFKA as an international trainer, a role that has taken me to some incredible places, including the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Mongolia, and Morocco.

Training is typically delivered over five days and covers topics such as assessing each child's individual postural support needs, understanding pressure care, accurately measuring the child and turning those into the right adjustments on the wheelchair. And of course, we spend plenty of time understanding the full range of settings and features of the ADJUSTA wheelchair.

WFKA is supported by a fantastic team of volunteer occupational therapists and physiotherapists who generously give their time and expertise to deliver this training around the world. While training is ideally conducted in a classroom setting, we adapt to whatever local space is available.

Throughout the training program, we work with a small number of children, giving trainees hands on experience and the opportunity to practise real fittings with guidance and support.

By the end of the five days, it's incredibly rewarding to see trainees confidently fitting children into their new wheelchairs. There is always a strong sense of achievement and pride in what has been accomplished.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

National Volunteer Week 18–24 May 2026 is the perfect excuse to celebrate the legends who make everything happen. At Wheelchairs For Kids Australia, our volunteers truly are the heart and soul of everything we do.

From the factory floor to the sewing room, every wheelchair, cushion, teddy and task comes together thanks to generous hands and big-hearted people. There's plenty of teamwork and more than a few laughs along the way. We're so grateful for every hour given and every bit of effort shared.

This National Volunteer Week, we simply give a heartfelt thank you for your energy, kindness and the spirit that makes WFKA such a special place.



Graham Shean



A Little Help Goes a Long Way

Our distribution partner, Burma Children Medical Fund, recently shared the story of Wah Fee, a bright five-year old living with her extended family in Mae Sot. Born prematurely with a low birthweight, Wah experienced delayed development and was unable to walk by age three. While her mother worked in Bangkok, Wah was lovingly cared for by her grandmother.

In January 2026, Wah moved to live with her aunt to access free healthcare. After beginning physiotherapy, she was referred for a wheelchair. On 25 March, Wah received her WFKA wheelchair, opening up a new world of movement and the exciting possibility of starting school.

Wah Fee Burma

Beyond the Bumpy Roads

The Pamodzi Ndi Ana team carried out new wheelchair fittings and maintenance visits for children in the Eastern Province of Zambia, including the townships of Petauke, Sinda, Chadiza and Nyimba.

Despite battling mud, rain and car troubles along the way, the team were inspired by the incredible hospitality of the Zambian people, who welcomed them with warm smiles and home cooked meals.

Over four busy days the team, including a physiatrist, OT, physiotherapist, social worker and eight Italian volunteers saw 94 children. They adjusted wheelchairs for safe and comfortable fits, replaced tyres, seats and repaired any parts needing attention.

The days were long and often chaotic, but the team's dedication to supporting African children and their families never wavered. By the end of the trip, they were exhausted, yet every child they met made the journey unforgettable.



Zambia Pamodzi Ndi Ana Team

Vale

Pearl Colley was a rare treasure, radiant in spirit, gentle in heart and forever cherished. Pearl spent her Tuesday mornings volunteering at WFKA since 2019.

• **Bill Brown** (2011 - 2012) • **Don Haines** (2014 - 2015)



News from WFKA East Coast

Tintern Grammar Wheelathon

On 31 March, the much loved bi-annual Tintern Grammar Wheelathon was held in beautiful sunny weather. Members from the local Rotary Club of Bayswater kindly provided a sausage sizzle lunch for all the participants.

At the school assembly on 12th May, students were thrilled to learn that an amazing \$6,235.70 had been raised, enough to help fund more than 20 wheelchairs.



Tintern Grammar cheque presentation

Wandin North Primary School Wheelathon



On Thursday 2nd April, Wandin North Primary School proudly held its second wheelchair wheelathon. Local federal member Aaron Violi attended the event to encourage and support the students.

Through the wheelathon, students gained an understanding of how their fundraising helps provide mobility and independence to children living with disabilities in developing countries. The whole school enjoyed the day, with members of the local Rotary Club of Wandin kindly providing a sausage sizzle lunch for everyone.

Wandin North Primary School

Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise Golf Day

On Monday 16th March, we attended the annual Businessmen's Golf Day organised by the Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise. East Coast members once again helped on the day by selling raffle tickets to the many golfers taking part in the event.

Funds raised through the raffle contributed to the overall success of the day and WFKA received a very generous donation of \$12,500 from the Rotary Club.



Colin Byron and Betty Debham

Betty's Generous Support

Betty Debnam from Lindisfarne, Hobart, is a passionate supporter of WFKA and generously knits beautiful rugs for children receiving wheelchairs. Despite being legally blind, Betty continues to dedicate her time and talents to supporting the cause she cares so deeply about.

In March, the Victorian Rotary District 9815 held its annual district conference in Hobart alongside the Tasmanian district. During the conference, Past District Governor Colin Byron and his wife Leanne visited Betty to collect 13 knitted rugs, which travelled to Melbourne before being sent to the Perth factory.

Betty's knitting needles are still busy supporting the children of WFKA.

Wrapped in Kindness

A special delivery arrived from Melbourne crafters, around 500 rugs and 200 knitted toys for children who will receive a WFKA wheelchair.

Our long time Melbourne volunteer Russell Hayes coordinated the many contributors with Yarra Valley Gourmet Foods, Seville East, providing storage and containers and the wonderful Team Global Express delivering everything to Perth free of charge.

When people care this much, kindness becomes contagious.



Steve Pratt, Br. Olly Pickett and Greg Hebble

Wheelchairs dispatched since 1996

AFGHANISTAN	1	GAZA	1006	NAURA	10	USA	2
ALBANIA	40	GHANA	234	NEPAL	703	VANUATU	383
ANGOLA	50	GUINEA	1	NIGERIA	806	VIETNAM	8054
ARMENIA	302	INDIA	368	PAKISTAN	848	YEMEN	166
AUSTRALIA (TOTAL)	32	INDONESIA (TOTAL)	5624	PAPUA N.G. (TOTAL)	2227	ZAMBIA	3054
COCOS IS.	1	BALI	2516	BOUGAINVILLE	6	ZIMBABWE	487
BANGLADESH	671	FLORES IS.	20	PERU	2	<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">68,209</h2> </div>	
BELARUS	131	JAVA	2156	PHILIPPINES	2144		
BHUTAN	8	LOMBOK	547	ROMANIA	132	<h2 style="margin: 0;">2025/2026 Financial Year Dispatch</h2>	
BORNEO	340	SALATIGA	8	RWANDA	516		
BOSNIA	100	SUMATRA	28	SAMOA	231	JUL	516
BOTSWANA	1	SURABAYA	350	SEYCHELLES	60	AUG	702
BRAZIL	2	IRAN	22	SIERRA LEONE	661	SEPT	705
BULGARIA	26	IRAQ	1949	SINGAPORE	2	OCT	350
BURKINA FASO	164	JORDAN	271	SOLOMON IS.	368	NOV	48
BURUNDI	24	KENYA	4443	SOMALIA	332	DEC	350
CAMBODIA	1807	KIRIBATI	338	SOMALILAND	160	JAN	370
CAMEROON	1	LAOS	90	SOUTH AFRICA	123	FEB	350
CANADA	2	LEBANON	673	SOUTH KOREA	20	MAR	764
CHINA (TOTAL)	1746	LIBERIA	181	SRI LANKA	2209	APR	350
HONG KONG	1	LIBYA	340	SUDAN	62	MAY	374
COOK ISLANDS	5	MADAGASCAR	86	SYRIA	507	JUN	
D.R. OF CONGO	1072	MALAWI	4088	TAIWAN	50	TOTAL	4879
EGYPT	665	MALAYSIA	7	TANZANIA	3970		
EL SALVADOR	1	MALDIVES	4	THAILAND	338		
ETHIOPIA	110	MAURITANIA	75	TIMOR LESTE	1156		
FIJI (TOTAL)	857	MAURITIUS	438	TONGA	16		
BA	2	MOLDOVA	40	TUVALU	6		
NADI	8	MONGOLIA	1606	UGANDA	2668		
ONO - I - LAU	10	MOROCCO	1635	UKRAINE (TOTAL)	105		
SAVU SAVU	40	MOZAMBIQUE	439	CHERNIVTSI	25		
SUVA	630	MYANMAR	3515	CHERNOBYL	60		

Contact Information:

Address: 10 Buckingham Drive, Wangara WA 6065

Postal Address: PO Box 1175, Wangara DC,
Western Australia, 6947

Factory: +61 8 9409 3633 **Email:** info@wheelchairsforkids.org

ABN: 436 3877 9405 **ACN:** 638 779 405

WA Charity Licence: 20577

Facebook: #wheelchairsforkids

Web: wheelchairsforkids.org

Chief Executive Officer: Greg Hebble

greg.hebble@wheelchairsforkids.org

Volunteer Factory Manager: Br. Olly Pickett

olly.pickett@wheelchairsforkids.org

Fundraising & Communications Lead: Lee-Anne Ashley

lee-anne.ashley@wheelchairsforkids.org

Volunteer Coordinator & Editor: Joy Angerson

joy.angerson@wheelchairsforkids.org

Volunteer Workshop Coordinator: Bob Sheridan

bob.sheridan@wheelchairsforkids.org



Partners/Sponsors:



MinterEllison.



John & Jan
Hughan



Bill & Eileen
Doyle



Bill & Iolanda
Gibbins



Monday Club Love



Holy Trinity Monday Club

Br Olly was delighted to attend his annual lunch with the Holy Trinity Bayswater Monday Club.

The ladies created a beautiful collection of colourful rugs and teddies to accompany each wheelchair box. They also raised enough funds to provide two wheelchairs. Your kindness delivers love in every box.

Rotary Getting Kids Moving



Joy and excitement filled the day on 17 February 2026 as the Rotary Club of Metro Koronadal, Philippines, distributed 11 wheelchairs to children with cerebral palsy across Poblacion, Polomolok, South Cotabato, and Koronadal City.

Together with Soroptimist International (SI) Kaagapay, Kamari and Brgy, families were also given valuable guidance and support to help care for both children and caregivers at home.

WFKA thanks PDG Danny Low and Lady Angeline for their generous support in providing the wheelchairs and continuing to change young lives.

With 141 wheelchairs now distributed across the region, the club continues to bring hope and mobility to local families.

St Kieran Magic

St Kieran Catholic Primary School kicked off 2026 with our first WA School Wheel-a-thon. From kindy to year 6, students got to try our wheelchairs and race around for a great cause.

The event was great fun while also raising awareness of the challenges faced by children who are unable to move freely or attend school alongside their friends.

A special thank you to volunteers Mike Kane, Lindsey Gleeson and all the teachers and students who made it such a fun day.



St Kieran Catholic Primary School

Help a child waiting for their first wheelchair

Right now there is a child who is sitting on the ground unable to move freely, get to school or play with their friends.

With your support, we can change that.

At Wheelchairs For Kids Australia we make life-changing wheelchairs for children in developing countries, giving them mobility, dignity and hope for a brighter future.

Every wheelchair is made by our dedicated volunteers right here in Perth and gifted free of charge to children who need it most.

Just \$300 builds a complete wheelchair. Every donation helps to build a wheelchair piece by piece.

Please give what you can.

With gratitude, Brother Olly Pickett, AM (Project Co-founder)



Wheelchairs For Kids®
Giving freedom & mobility worldwide

How your gift will help:

\$55

Provides cushions & supports

\$85

Provides chassis & wheels

\$300

Provides a full wheelchair

Give securely online

wheelchairsforkids.org

Or call 9409 3633

Tax-deductible gifts close 30 June 2026