

Wrap with Love

“Knitting blankets
for cold humanity”

Annual Bulletin 2014

ANOTHER YEAR ... ANOTHER 32,000 + WRAPS!

Report from the Chair

The year 2013 was another busy one for Wrap with Love, with groups having their Knit-ins all over NSW at varying times during the months of June, July and August at schools, Neighbourhood Centres, libraries, retirement places, nursing homes and hospitals. They were fun and very productive, and unprecedented numbers of wraps came flooding into the warehouse during these months. By the end of the year more than 32,000 wraps had been sent to Cold Humanity both here and overseas.

Wrap with Love thanks the transport companies around Australia for their support and free carriage to depots on the outskirts of Sydney, and our warehouse volunteers Michel Rozer and Chris Fewtred who pick up from these depots. Rotary has also been very supportive, and clubs in various towns around NSW pick up and transport to the

warehouse. We have supplied some Rotary groups with wraps to be distributed far and wide as part of their international projects ... Madagascar (Rotary Taree), India, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and India (Rotary Burwood) and Papua New Guinea (Rotary Sutherland).

So far since February this year, wraps have been delivered to the warehouse at a constant rate. Up to 1st May, we have already booked in 8000+ wraps and 12,000+ squares. We have sent 4000 to World Vision, 1000 to Mission Without Borders (Eastern Europe), 500 to the Advent Development Relief Association (ADRA), 50 to Nepal, 50 to the Red Cross and 50 to the Salvation Army's Oasis for the homeless in Sydney.

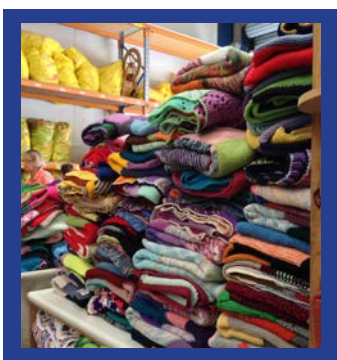
We encourage groups to send in wraps on a regular basis and not only at Knit-in time, as we have orders to pack throughout the year. The huge task of taking orders, packing and distribution are

organised by Lorraine Sutton with a band of enthusiastic volunteers in the main part of the warehouse. In the two inside rooms, volunteers look after correspondence, computers, phones, sorting squares, and sewing on labels. In both areas, quality control of the product is always a consideration, regardless of how busy we are. WWL has a wonderful team of volunteers who come on a regular basis to the warehouse on either Wednesday or Friday, work hard, talk and laugh... and go home content.

To everyone who helps us, whatever you do and wherever you are, a big thank you. We couldn't do it without you.

Jayne Goodes
Chair, Wrap with Love

Next Annual General Meeting:
Wednesday 18th March 2015
Annual holidays: closed
from December 12, 2014
to February 4, 2015



In the news

WwL Committee 2014

Chair: Jayne Goodes

Treasurer and Publicity Officer: Roy Rigotti

Secretary: Gail Rochester

Committee Members: Poppy Becher, Lorraine Downey, Jennifer Gordon, Michel Roser, Lorraine Sutton, Alex Gonzales, Alida Gray, Mary Madgwick, Joan Secker



Jayne Goodes grew up in Canberra and studied painting and textile design at RMIT in Melbourne. She spent nine years overseas in London and Nigeria, working as an interior designer and colour consultant, then returned to Australia, where she worked with a big architectural firm in Sydney and designed interiors for the NSW Supreme Court. She went on to establish her own business, and became the first art consultant here. Jayne heard WWL founder Sonia Gidley King giving a talk twenty-one years ago, was hooked and immediately volunteered. She became Sonia's right hand, and took on the role of co-ordinator during Sonia's final illness. Jayne maintains her interest in the arts generally, has exhibited her felting work and is researching her family history.

Lorraine Sutton, proud mother of three sons and four grandchildren, has had a varied career, working for an import company, teaching, and being a doctor's receptionist. Now working at WWL on both Wednesday and Friday, Lorraine is in charge of communication with aid agencies, and she looks after the packing and distribution of wraps. She is often called on to give talks about the organisation. Lorraine happened to hear Sonia on radio one morning and rang to find out more. Sonia established that Lorraine knew computers, and said 'come in tomorrow'. Lorraine has been with WWL for twelve years now. She enjoys ballet, and loves spending time at the family's house at Port Stephens.



Roy Rigotti is WWL's Treasurer. London-born of Italian parents, Roy came to Sydney at the age of fifteen. He trained as a pharmacist, later establishing his own business at Eastlakes. He has always had a lively interest in philosophical and religious issues, and it was at a discussion group that he met Sonia. Never one to miss an opportunity, Sonia saw Roy as just the person to help her with WWL accounts, which Roy agreed to do, working first from home and later at the Alexandria warehouse. Father of three and grandfather of twelve, Roy enjoys family and travel, and maintains a strong interest in the Church, being involved in youth groups and family discussion groups.

Bulletin Editorial Committee 2014

Mary Madgwick, Jayne Goodes, Roy Rigotti, Diana Whitton

Design: Mariama Whitton

Contact: editor.wwl@gmail.com

Did you know?

Wrap with love operates all year round and not just at Knit-in times

SPECIAL THANKS

- to the City of Sydney Council for providing WWL with warehouse space rent free.
- to the many transport companies who assist so generously with transport of wraps.
- to the Aid Agencies without whom we could not send our wraps to their destinations
- to the Guardian Funerals Group which provides drop-off facilities for knitters and transfers goods to the warehouse

NEW LOOK KNIT-INS – a success story

Last year was our first in a decade without an ABC Knit-in. Instead local Knit-ins were held in about fifty locations around the country, and they proved to be an outstanding success. This year we are again encouraging you to hold a local event, large or small, during the months of June, July and August. (Or of course at another time if these months don't suit!) Let us know when you have a date set, and we'll help by putting details on the website. And if you don't know of an event in your area, why not approach your local library, club, school or council?

KEEPING IN TOUCH

It's great to be able to share Wrap with Love experiences with other volunteers, and this Annual Bulletin is one way of doing so. Let us know how your Knit-in goes. Send photos. Keep an eye out for interesting and different experiences, events and (above all) people, and send us details.

Send an email to editor.wwl@gmail.com, or post information to PO Box 10, ROSEBERY, NSW 1445.

VALE 2014

Ray Bailey
Joyce Carah
Barbara Dyer
Jan Gyles
Francie Hanrahan
Dr Joyce Lintern

Helen Linacre
Peggie Macfarlane
Carol Odell
Sue Ritchie
Suzanne Shackleton
Daphne Tinker

A recognition for all WWL volunteers!



CASTING ON

1 'A tower of nine storeys begins with a heap of earth', wrote the poet. For Wrap with Love, it all begins with a single stitch...All over Sydney...across the states of Australia... in China, Canada and New Zealand... and who knows where else...enthusiastic and committed volunteers begin to knit a square...



2 Many people meet regularly in groups, and enjoy the company of fellow volunteers...Some craft 28 squares and make a complete wrap. Some prefer to let others do the sewing up...

3 Wraps and squares are delivered to our warehouse in Alexandria. Some are hand-delivered. Some come by post, an expensive option. Others come via our treasured Drop Off Depot (DOD) volunteers who arrange for carriers to transport them to Sydney. Volunteers from the warehouse are often on the road to outer Sydney to the delivery points of our highly valued carriers.



4 At the warehouse one of our volunteers logs every wrap and every square in a log book. All are checked to make sure that they reach our standard, and to ensure that wraps are labelled. Unlabelled wraps are set aside for labelling.



5 Squares are counted and taken to the sorting area, where they are packed into bags of 28, or set aside for further attention...

6 At last approved wraps are ready for packing... Skilled (volunteer) packers at the warehouse can fit ten wraps into the strong yellow plastic bags which have been donated by a transport company. Bags are then sealed, labelled and logged.



7 Trucks sent by our distributors collect the required number of bags from the warehouse.

8 Mission accomplished! Our wraps are delivered to people in need... ultimate satisfaction for all of us who have worked towards this moment. As they say in the film industry, 'it's a wrap'.



WRAPPING UP!



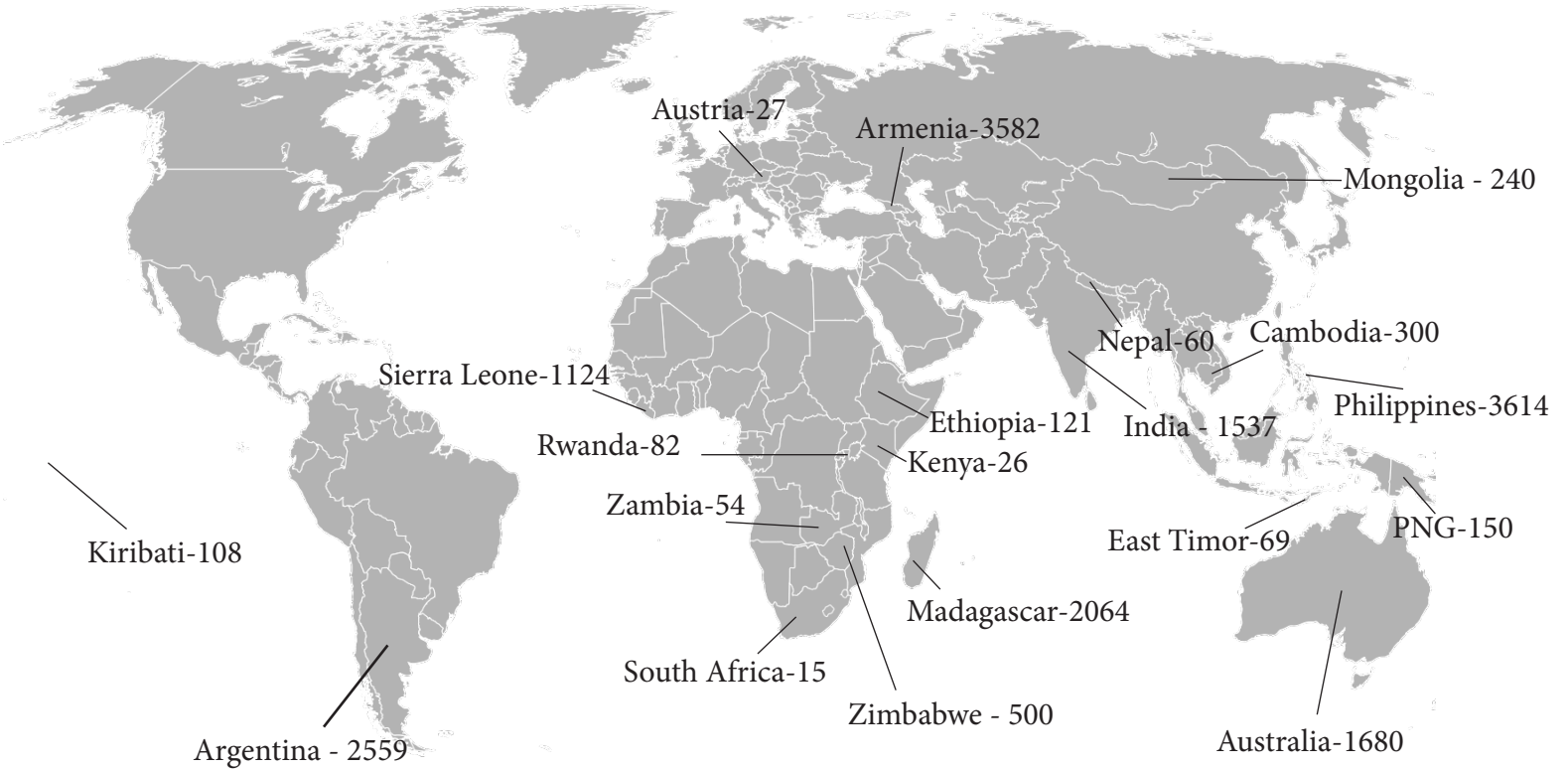
Mission Without Borders-3488
 (Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria,
 Moldova, Romania, Ukraine)



Total number of wraps distributed in 2013: **32,726**

Total since 1992: **365,374**

ADRA-1010



World Vision-10216
 (Burundi, Malawi, Mongolia,
 Swaziland, Uganda, Zimbabwe)



The Yarn Line

MANDY'S STORY

A few years ago my neighbour Thelma and I decided to knit a wrap for Wrap with Love. She had seen an article about them in Better Homes and Gardens. I said I would sew some of their squares up to help, so each week I would take several bags of squares home. On one trip I noticed a lot of 'odd' shaped squares and asked what these were 'Feral'squares, I was told. So I decided that I would have ago at making wraps with them. So six years later I am now known as the Feral Lady.

Thelma helps me by ironing the curly squares and sometimes sewing the ends in, and her sister Wendy also knits me squares. My friend Linda helps with the odd crocheting and she also gives me squares she knits in between her knitting premature baby clothes. I have recruited Mumma (93 years) from the coffee shop next to my work. I unpick the unusable ferals and she crochets me lovely squares which I then sew up. Many customers have raided their cupboards or bought wool in for her to crochet and everyone admires her excellent colour combinations. My friend Jackie, who couldn't thread a needle, learnt to wind wool when I unpicked ferals as we watched our sons at cricket.

My husband has often complained and removed the masking tape on the carpet, which is my 40 x70 template and peels it off. He is getting very good at unpicking ferals while I wind up the wool.

So far I have sewn up approximately 860 wraps and many with four times the 28 square requisite.

So hopefully I can keep my 'feraling' going to help all the needy around the world.



HINTS

While we're on the Yarn Line, thanks to everyone who has contributed yarn to WWL throughout the year. If you hear of anyone with yarn to give away, please tell them about WWL!

Please remember to attach a WWL label to an underside corner of your finished wrap. Labels are available free of charge. Call us at 028399 3000, email www@pacific.net.au giving your address and the number of labels you need, or ask you Area Contact.



At the Kuring-gai Seniors Festival in March, the Gordon and Turramurra Knitting Groups received the Seniors Week Mayoral Award for 'outstanding contribution to the community by a group'. Congratulations!



The South Australian Branch of WWL has been contributing wraps since 1996. Coordinator Susan Crouch sends us news from groups at Belair Blackwood, Mt Barker, Mannum, Strathalbyn, Underdale, Stream of Life Ruggers and Port Lincoln.



Cressalon Nursing Home at Jannali has a weekly Wrap with Love knitting session run by volunteers. The large group of women attending are all aged and many are quite frail, but they cheerfully throw themselves into their crafting and produce many beautiful wraps.



We have been told about a woman in her nineties, a former dressmaker, who maintains that knitting keeps her alive. And a woman in her late seventies who gave up doing hand work many years ago when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. She was recently persuaded to try knitting, and after initial frustration she found that knitting actually calmed the trembling of her hands. Now there's no stopping her. (Thanks to Helene Gonsk and Janet Phelps for those great stories.)



News from Shirley Chapman at the Newcastle/Lower Hunter Area... The Hunter Knit-in will be held at Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery on Friday August 1, and the butterfly has been chosen as this year's theme. Wrappers are encouraged to incorporate a butterfly design into their square, squares or completed wrap.



Robyn Carmichael of the Yarn Friendship Group at Ashgrove in Queensland, reports that with an average attendance of only 21 volunteers, they have produced an amazing 258 wraps this year.



The WWL knitters at Epping Presbyterian Church produced nearly one hundred wraps last year, a great effort for a group all at least in their eighties, one member aged ninety-eight and another at a hundred and a half. And from this group, a novel idea for a wrap. One member took a jumper, and unpicked all of it except for the front panel. She incorporated the panel into regular squares made up of the unpicked yarn, plus one other colour. The result was much admired when it arrived at the warehouse. From Forest Lake in Queensland, a full-sized wrap in one square, using thirty-six colours.





There was great excitement in the Maitland group when the 2013 WWL Bulletin arrived. Jo Freeburn tells us the wrap in the top right hand corner of the back page is one of theirs! It shows children at the Morningstar Orphanage in South Africa. What a coup!



Last August, the Kogarah Library and Moorefield Girls High School got together for a knit-in, and the girls presented WWL with 27 wraps. The school band, The Lady Beatles, performed a 'wrap' song written for the occasion.



We've been told of a woman who was struggling after the taking the difficult step of up giving up smoking. A Wrapper suggested she try knitting as a distraction. It worked, and there was an additional benefit... loss of weight!

We had a call from the Rotary Club of Hornsby asking whether we'd be interested in collecting our unwanted coins for their project to fight malaria, and we've taken one of their collection boxes. If you'd like to know more, contact www.hornsbyrotary.org. We like the idea of one good cause helping another.



Donations made to WWL in memory of Sue Ritchie are being used for the purchase of a new computer, much needed in the office.



The KNC Yarning Group meets on Fridays at St Ives Shopping Centre. KNC (Ku-Ring-gai Neighbourhood Centre) generously supplies most of the yarn. The group acts as a DOD, and member Jennifer Gordon, a volunteer at the Alexandria warehouse, has already delivered 116 wraps in this financial year. They are planning a knit-in for July.



Wraps Around The World

WORLD VISION

In 2013, World Vision received more than 10,000 wraps from Wrap with Love, and these were distributed to Burundi, Malawi, Mongolia, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The 2013 Program Resources Newsletter reports:

‘Causing 18 per cent of deaths, pneumonia is one of the deadliest preventable illnesses for children under five. The ability to keep a child warm during the cold weather is critical. This is why World Vision Malawi distributed blankets within a maternity ward, providing new mothers with the essential resources that would safeguard their child’s health in the long term.

Blanket distributions have supported World Vision projects that work to increase child immunisation against measles, polio and tuberculosis in some of the most remote and vulnerable parts of the world. In order to boost attendance, some of the distributions this year occurred at clinics and hospitals offering immunisation for children under five. By supporting other World Vision projects, donated resources such as blankets can have the best possible impact on communities.’

MONGOLIAID

Mongoliaid founder Barry Jiggins writes...

‘I returned to Mongolia in September to oversee the distribution of 13,000 blankets. ... I am pleased to say that ‘wraps’ can now be found across half of the sovereign territory of Mongolia. How cool is that? ... My main priority was and will always be the school dormitories and kindergartens in the remote villages. The most north westerly village was Erdeneburen in Khovd province. Here the children got together and sang a song of thanks. ... The nearby (relatively speaking) village of Buyant has the most diverse spread of minority ethnic groups of any village in Mongolia but is also famous for growing watermelons. Never have I eaten so much watermelon in my life, such was the gratitude from the locals. I look forward to working with WwL again in the near future. Imagine wraps in every Mongolian province?’

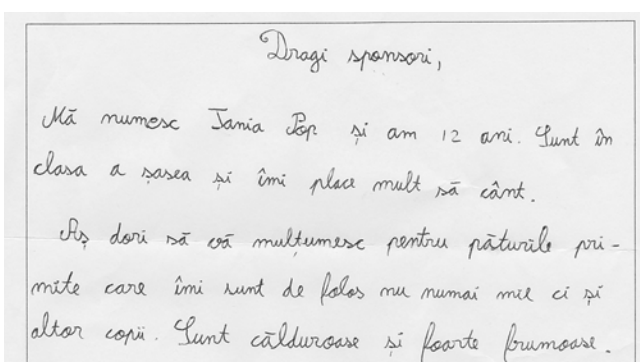


MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

From Overcomers 2014 ...

'To the thousands of wonderful knitters and supporters of Mission Without Borders and our Gift in Kind program, a heart-felt thank you! All the knitted and hand-made items received are a currency we use to tell the children and families exactly how loved, unique and special they are. Perhaps the most heart-warming outcome of your efforts is that they receive a gift made with love, which not only keeps them warm but sends them a message that they are not alone, and their plight is known.'

Tania is one of the recipients in Romania, and she writes:



My name is Tania Pop and I am 12 years old.
I am on the 6th grade and I like to sing very much.
I would like to thank you for the gifted blankets
which are so useful for me and for the other children.
They are keeping us so warm and they are so beautiful.



WWL Inspired Groups Offshore!

Shirley Greenaway of the Blue Mountains has been knitting for WWL for many years, and last year her daughter-in-law Yang took up knitting squares too. Recently Yang's mother started knitting with a few friends in Harbin in north China, and she now has a group of more than a hundred, who meet and work in office space provided by the government.

Annette Bennett of Kings Cross Knitwits reports that a group called Die StrickliesIn (French knitting dolls) has been meeting in Austria for the past two years at the home of Annette's niece, Fiona Meisel. The six members of the group send their wraps to a group home for juvenile asylum seekers.

Catherine O'Keefe, back in Australia on holiday, brought us a wrap from the Arrowsmith Peterborough Knitting Group in Ontario, Canada, a group whose children attend a special international school for cognitive improvement. Six of the 36 children are from Australia, so the mothers got together with love, laughter and friendship to knit for WWL.



<p>Contact us: Wrap with Love Inc (02) 8399 3000 wwl@pacific.net.au www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/Wrap.htm</p> <p>Delivery Address (No mail) Unit 4 South Sydney Industrial Estate 4 Huntley Street (off Bourke Road) Alexandria NSW Australia</p>	<p>Office/warehouse hours 10.00 am to 2.30 pm Wednesdays and Fridays only ABN 54 188 564 833</p> <p>Mail and Parcel Post Po Box 10 Rosebery NSW 1445 Australia</p>
---	--