



ANNUAL BULLETIN 2019

Warming the World with Love



“I will take care of it
so that I can use it
for a long time”

**Zohra, World Vision
Afghanistan**

**‘Our mission is to distribute wraps through
Aid Agencies and Charities to those needing warmth’**

CONTACT US

Wrap with Love Inc
info@wrapwithlove.org
02 8399 3000
www.wrapwithlove.org
ABN 54 188 564 833

OFFICE/WAREHOUSE

10.00am to 3.00pm
Wednesday & Friday only

MAIL AND PARCEL POST

PO Box 10
ROSEBERY NSW 1445

DELIVERY ADDRESS (NO MAIL)

Unit 4 Sth Sydney Industrial Estate
4 Huntley Street (off Bourke Rd)
Alexandria NSW Australia

Report from the Chair



Once again, the warehouse was full of incredible wraps upon our return at the end of January and the year started with us all working to clear the full warehouse in very hot and at times extreme temperatures. We must thank **Edition Habit Press** for their wonderful help over the summer break.

Moving on to Saturday May 11, I am still on a high after such a very successful day which was our 2019 Knit In. This was held at the Sydney Masonic Club's amazing property and would not have happened without their generosity in providing this facility for us to use. The staff with the setting up and dismantling of tables, Dana and Scott with their overall assistance and coffee, teas, cakes and pastries all added to this fantastic day. We had over 400 people

attend and they came from all over the state including Bowral, Nowra, Lithgow, Rylestone, Wollongong, Central Coast, Wagga, Goulburn, to name a few places. One lady caught a 2am flight from Darwin and 3 people arrived from Cootamundra the day before with a van full of wraps, then stayed overnight in Sydney to attend our Knit In.

The buzz in the room was electric and the speakers told our audience where our wraps go. David Griffiths travelled from Melbourne to tell us about World Vision and included a video from Tim Costello thanking us for our work. Then Warren Weir from Providential Homes told us his story of helping families and people who have found themselves in difficult circumstances. We had Marnie May talk about the mentoring group SISTER2sister and the work they do. Judith Bond, one of the warehouse workers, talked about her trip accompanying a container of wraps to Cambodia. Workshops were run throughout the day. Phil Pryor played soft jazz in the background and Robert Hutcheon's wrap display was incredible. At the end of the day lots of new friends had been made and the WWL workers were exhausted.

I must say a huge thank you to **Chris Fewtrell, Phil Pryor, Paddy and Ross Glover, Michael Soker Guardian Funerals, Rotary Clubs of NSW and the many libraries and transport companies** for their contributions during the past year. We are very grateful to them. To the wonderful volunteers who come on a regular basis to help run our warehouse on a Wednesday or Friday and to all the knitters, crocheters and sew-uppers. We could not achieve keeping people warm (over 26000 last year) without your help. I would be very remiss not to mention the great work of **Sue Edwards and Dale Halloran** for editing this magazine.

I trust we can keep up the good work with the help of all our volunteers from all over Australia.

Lorraine Sutton

Wrap with Love Committee Members 2019

Chair - Lorraine Sutton

Treasurer & Public Officer - Roy Rigotti

Secretary - Patty Bruniges

Committee Members - Lorraine Downey,
Jennifer Gordon, Gillian Mauchan,
Kate Molyneux, Jan Whitford.

A Chat with Meg



Meg Beaver joined WWL in 1994, 2 years after it started. She was inspired by a friend who was knitting a square and consequently contacted the founder Sonia Gidley King who was interested in Meg's clerical skills. Sonia was fantastic at involving people. Meg has been the Secretary and Publicity Officer. In the early days at Rose Bay volunteers worked until 5 p.m. Meg has seen a lot of organisational changes and streamlining from a card system to computers. She found it very interesting in the early days to be involved in the working out of the modus operandi. In 1996 WWL was incorporated and a constitution written. It couldn't be registered as a charity as it didn't have enough income. How things have changed! There has been the organising of drop off

points (large number of people/institutions involved) as opposed to originally contacting the Office/ Depot in Rose Bay, the move to Alexandria in 2002 and the change in distribution from ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) to mainly World Vision. There were 63 wraps in the first lot that was sent to Mozambique.

After two years the organisation seemed to be slowing down and Sonia was most concerned. Meg's advice to her was "If God intended it to go on, it will. If not, God will decide and just think of all the good that you have done in those two years". Meg feels its success is due to the fact that it is completely volunteer, involves people in all walks of life, everyone involved is nice and friendly with no power play occurring. She also has been impressed by generous monetary donations given.

Meg who recently turned 94 is now unable to come to the warehouse. However, she still crochets beautiful squares and is very much valued for her very many contributions to WWL.

Vale - Poppy Becher



Poppy had been a volunteer for over 10 years travelling from Burrawang each Friday – a round trip of over 200km. She was a quality controller extraordinaire with very high standards ensuring correct measurements were adhered to. WWL was a very large part of her life. She encouraged others to be involved including a blind lady sewing up squares and starting a group in Bowral where the library was a drop off point. She also collected from the Uniting Church in Bowral and the Goulburn group. Her interests were many and varied including Riding for the Disabled, Sing Australia and gardening. Sadly, Poppy passed away in August 2018 and will be sorely missed for her friendship, loyalty and dedication to excellence.

We acknowledge the passing during the past twelve months of the following much valued contributors to WWL:

Maureen Anderson, Elaine Bagshaw, Poppy Becher, Annie Bickmore Hutt, Beth Bynon, Mary Collins, Henrietta De Graaf, Monica Doyle, Irene Forbes, Evelyn Harrison, Dianah Harvey, Helen Hunter, Gloria Lewis, Jane Major Smith, Jenny Nelson, Bruce Pyke, Helen Thorpe, Lynne van de Sterran and Sister Joan Wister.

Thank you Volunteers

Fantastic news everyone! Our wonderful volunteers across Australia created 26718 wraps in 2018 making a grand total of **493628 wraps in 26 years**. Amazing work everyone and we greatly appreciate your continued support of Wrap with Love's success.

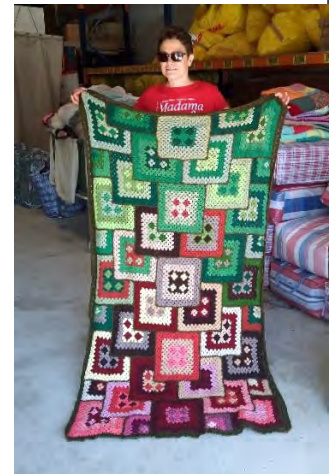
At the Warehouse



Carolyn Priestly I met Sonia Gidley King when she was giving a talk about her project Wrap with Love. She asked if I would be interested in helping. What attracted me was that there was no expectation of fundraising. It was operating out of a hall lent by the Greek Orthodox Church. Qantas was able to arrange transport of our wraps. In those days we accepted used blankets, quilts and anything that was clean and gave warmth. We tied them in groups of 10 with old nylon stockings for delivery. Very instrumental in the success of WWL were the ten years we were sponsored by the ABC. Slowly WWL adopted modern technology, first with donated second hand computers and now our office staff are very competent and we have a website and are on Facebook. The standard of donated wraps is monitored and some are works of art.

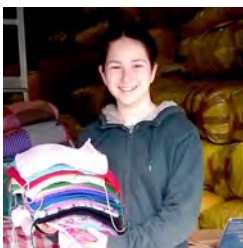
Personally, I have always enjoyed working in the warehouse. The satisfaction of arriving and seeing bags and boxes and more arriving inundating the space and then by the end of the day order has been restored and they are all packed in yellow bags ready to go. Over the years I have met many generous, capable and interesting people all willingly giving of their time for a worthwhile cause.

Gillian Mauchan became involved with WWL through a knitting group. At the warehouse she takes on the IT work with her computer "Fix IT" skills for which she is greatly valued. She has also taken on the responsibility of the associated social media updates along with packing wraps, quality control and producing beautiful wraps. She finds WWL a worthy cause and looks forward to its moving forward.



Lorraine Downey has been a volunteer since 2007 after attending a couple of ABC Knit Ins. She has knitted for years which she enjoys very much and finds both the knitting and her role of booking entries and packing at the warehouse very rewarding. She is also a drop off point for wraps and squares and has made nice friends through WWL. She believes it has changed her life.

Around and About



Adena Miller celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in 2018 and wished to make a donation to the charity of her choice. She found the website for WWL and her grandmother taught her to knit. At the warehouse she presented a bundle of squares knitted with her grandmother and \$150 which was a portion of her gifts.

Sue Millson, Pam Prior, Susie Casey and Amanda Wilson who have been friends for 30 years were inspired by Angela Catterns who hosted the ABC Knit Ins. They choose a colour and come up with a theme. Each knit 7 squares, then come together to assemble the wrap. In the last 12 months they have produced 16 beautiful wraps.



Margaret Mayes – My grandmother taught me to knit and crochet when I was 8 years of age and I have been doing these crafts (and many others) ever since. Considering my age, which will remain a secret, that is a long time! I first heard about Wrap with Love about 15 years ago and discovered a wonderful way to use up all the bits and pieces of wool in my stash. My craft cupboard became tidier and the wool was doing something useful for the benefit of others. Friends began to give me their completed squares and so began the love affair with putting the squares together into blankets. I think I must have put together hundreds of blankets over the years and find it a very relaxing and rewarding pastime. I sometimes look at a pile of 28 squares and think “these colours don’t sing” but on considering the finished product, almost always, the squares are in harmony. I manage to find time almost every day for crocheting squares together and when hands are busy with a crochet hook (or knitting needles) they cannot be reaching for squares of chocolate or the wine glass and my friend Arthur (aka arthritis) is kept at bay. In our troubled world there will always be a need for a way to use up left over yarn and warm blankets put together with love by people whose fingers are in need of a meaningful occupation.



Hornsby Library is coordinated by **Sue Harrison** and the district also includes Berowra and Pennant Hills Libraries. They began in 2007 and had their first Knit In in 2008. Over the years from the Knit Ins alone they have contributed a total of 6500 very beautiful wraps. There are 70 members who meet weekly with each meeting averaging at least 55. The group includes people from 14 or 15 nationalities and Sue says the best thing is how inclusive the group is, always most friendly and welcoming. She is enormously proud of them for this.

Lane Library Cove - Stephanie Molloy was inspired at the Better Homes and Garden stall 15 years ago. She was always interested in knitting, made squares and went to the ABC Knit In with their personalities and encouragement from Angela Catterns. She has been the Area contact through the years. After a talk from the late Jayne Goodes Lane Cove library was prepared to start and meet monthly. It has fostered good community spirit.



Ryde Library is coordinated by Angela Phippin who together with other staff 13 years ago ran knitting and crocheting nights at Gladesville leading up to the ABC Knit In. The Gladesville people were so keen they decided to continue with West Ryde, Eastwood and Ryde Libraries running regular knitting groups. The program engenders a sense of community and especially with people from backgrounds with language other than English as knitting and crocheting are the common language in providing that sense of community. The busiest branch is West Ryde with 25-30 people meeting regularly. In 2018 414 wraps were produced. Angela believes it is important to support worthy causes. They have an annual Knit In on the first Friday in August at Ryde Library where they display the wraps and the Library becomes an Art Gallery. They are very grateful to the volunteers from WWL who come out and pick up the wraps as it really makes it seamless for them.



Meg Gervay from Rotary Club of Sydney Cove

My involvement with Wrap with Love was inspired by much-loved former Chair Jayne Goodes. Jayne and I met many years ago in our shared professions as art consultants and at our annual Christmas dinners she would regale us with stories of Sonia Gidley King and her team of volunteers.

Although I am a hopeless knitter, I thought that my Rotarian connections could be of benefit somehow to Wrap with Love. In 2009 a team of our Rotary Club began linking the rural and suburban community groups of knitters in the Wrap In 2010 family with their local Rotary Clubs to get assistance with freight to the Alexandria warehouse.

In 2010 some 66 Rotary clubs across the state were responsible for delivering more than 7000 wraps and 21000 squares of community knitting in various resourceful and economical ways including free freight from local trucking companies and car convoys. Since then the local communities have formed strong partnerships with Rotary. One of our long-term Rotary supporters Geoff Smith from Trangie, who recently organised free delivery of two massive wool bales of knitting from his area and does so every year, addressed our Rotary Club on the effects of the drought on his community. Such is the power of the Wrap with Love formula, that no matter how tough people's lives are, they still find the time and the will to knit for others.

My husband Tom and I continue to be involved with deliveries from knitting groups on the Central Coast, suburban Sydney and trucking depots for the long hauls.

I think the success of Wrap with Love rests on the goodwill of the amazing team of volunteers, both in the warehouse and in the hundreds of knitting groups around Australia. It empowers people to enrich the lives of the less fortunate with a gift that may in fact be the very first handmade item they have ever owned.

Your excellent and informative newsletter and website are another powerful tool in keeping the knitters engaged and gives them the opportunity to seek what their work achieves and I commend the publishing team for their great work.



Aida Portero who is originally from Ecuador travels to the warehouse every 3 months with 100 beautifully crocheted squares. She has been doing this for 20 years and first became aware of WWL through the Redfern Adventist Church.

Robyn Croweller

Our Inner Wheel Club, which is located in The Hills area has been making squares for Wrap with Love for many years. I had first heard of WWL from Dale and decided that when



I became President in 2012 I would encourage our Club to be involved. At my first meeting I gave each member a ball of wool and instruction card. From that beginning our members and some friends have kept knitting and on average we have donated twenty completed wraps each year. One of our members who is artistic and has a wonderful sense of colour and design has made it her contribution to crochet all the squares together. Our Club considers this part of our International Service and we hope to continue for many years to come.

Margaret Griffin has been involved for 3 years and became involved through A Unique Hug run by the late Jayne Goodes' friend Lesley at Paddington Pub. She combines wool/nylon of smaller ply to make 8 ply, dyeing both this and 8 ply white wool with food colourings. She then knits these products into very artistic wraps.



Margaret Barlow from Tasmania has family in Sydney. She went to a couple of ABC Knit Ins and as she likes to keep busy felt this was a good way to help. When she is in Sydney, she will visit the warehouse and help out. She is the contact person in Tasmania and liaises with the ABC Giving Tree who distribute the wraps in Tasmania throughout the year via the St Vincent's Society, the Benevolent Society and City Mission. She has involved other people in producing squares and wraps.

Eden Knitters have knitted 56 wraps and sewed wraps made from 150 squares from Tathra.



Moorefield Girls High School in 2018 donated 33 wraps. During the last 14 years they have produced 177 wraps with contributions from members of the wider school community. Working with WWL enables the students to learn the art of knitting, the value of volunteering and an awareness of those less fortunate than themselves.



Dorothy and Murray Billsborrow and Irene Minnett from **Cootamundra** arrived at the warehouse with 191 wraps including 31 from Young. While Murray drove, Irene sat in the front crocheting and Dorothy sat in the back knitting surrounded by the bags of wraps. Their group of 10 to 20 people meets monthly. They have been doing this for 15 years. After tea and scones at the warehouse they headed back to Cootamundra. They make this trip about four times a year.



Diana Johnson continues to coordinate the Central Coast WWL groups and reported a delivery of 1492 wraps to the end of October. Special thanks to Greg Neville for providing the location for monthly drop offs and delivery to the warehouse in Alexandria.

Marcia Bonham from Bathurst, who has been involved with WWL for over 20 years, organises a wrap display at the Community Centre. This is viewed by many interested people and was acknowledged in the Bathurst Western Advocate. She is grateful for the assistance of many people including Sister Michelle Farrugia, Frank Smith and Co and Dawson's Removals.



Glen Innes Knitters meet weekly at the local library and produced 370 wraps in 2018. 97 of these were distributed in the area to the hospital, residents in need and East Timor. Thanks to the support from Parsons and Tanex Carriers, the manager of Wayne's World, the Reject Shop and the fundraising 9-year-old grandson.



Christine Flint, occupational therapist at University of Wollongong Disability & Counselling Service and her friend **Jane Cozens** from Northbridge Library have been collaborating between the two services for some years to knit and create rugs for WWL. Jane has her lovely group of knitters who meet regularly at the library, while Christine keeps wool, needles and information about WWL in her waiting room. She sees students with anxiety, depression, PTSD, bipolar and many complex mental health conditions. She also

keeps articles on knitting and crochet as a mindfulness activity. The students and at times their parents come in and knit whilst waiting for their counselling appointments. They find it relaxing and sometimes even keep knitting when they are in their counselling appointment as they find it soothing. When they have enough squares, they have a wine and cheese night with staff and students invited where they design their squares as beautifully as they can with lots of collaboration and then chat whilst stitching the community rug together. Christine and Jane share squares between their groups to try and find colour themes to create the most visually appealing rugs they can. The sharing of the knitting, designing and stitching between the 2 groups has been a joyous collaboration for knitters, stitchers, workers and students.

Barbara Waters from Murwillumbah who is 83 years young knits a square each day and has been involved with WWL for 17 years. She is the drop off person and has made friends through her involvement. Knitting groups run at the local library and in the Retirement Village at Banora Point. She heard about WWL through the ABC. She gratefully acknowledges the local removalist Gordon for delivering 2500 wraps over the time.

Carol Smith and her **Knit 'n' Knatter Group** has been very well supported by the Darwin City Council. It has brought together a group of 25 mainly pensioners who celebrate their achievements at a monthly lunch. They have other members involved at home.



Wraps on the Move in 2018



Country or Agency	2018
Australia	3860
Armenia	2000
Cambodia	369
East Timor	21
Fiji	109
India	49
Iraq	500
Nepal	16
Philippines	1879
Sierra Leone	62
Solomon Islands	200
South Africa	62
Syria	2016
Tonga	18
Vanuatu	1021
World Vision	14536
Annual total	26,718

Providential Homes based in Glendenning distributes wraps to people with whom they work to help restore their lives.

Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre look after destitute women. They are very appreciative of WWL's support in making a positive impact on the lives of women and children living in their crisis refuges in helping supply them with extra warmth during the cold weather.

Redfern Women's Shelter aims to show the women in their care the dignity and respect that they deserve. They believe that our wraps are an effective way of instilling a sense of self-worth. The women are very impressed that there are people out there generously making beautiful things.

SISTER2sister in Surry Hills mentors girls who are at risk of dropping out of school. Each girl is issued with a wrap.

Laura who came to the Knit In and is living in a refuge received a wrap from WWL. This inspired her to start knitting which she says is therapy, art and inspirational. She has now knitted 22 squares and wants to give back to the community. The Knit In has opened up doors for her.

Manly Women's Shelter is given 30 wraps every 6 weeks.

The Western Australian WWL group distributes their wraps throughout the state.

Liverpool Anglican Team members have been delighted to distribute wraps to those in need.

Westmead Children's Hospital distributes wraps to refugee children in hospital.

Tingah in NSW was sent wraps for local people in need.

WTRC in the Philippines gave wraps to the Church of the Nazarene who works in the poorest communities and on the ground for disaster relief with typhoons, earthquakes and storms being a regular occurrence. The wraps provide comfort to those whose homes are flooded or wiped out.

The Australian Syrian Association of Victoria distributed a container of 2016 to orphans and displaced persons in 2 refugee camps in Syria as part of the Syrian Winter Appeal.



Open Heart International has been visiting Papua New Guinea since 1993. Over 30 visiting cardiac teams have been involved and now concentrate on paediatric cardiac surgery. The project aims to support the local medical, nursing and technical staff as they transition to independent cardiac surgical practice. Wrap with Love is delighted to support this project.



Dates for the Year

Friday 22nd November 2019 - Last date for deliveries to Warehouse

Wednesday 29th January 2020 - Warehouse reopens

Friday 27th March 2020 Annual General Meeting

Donations

The WWL Committee would like to thank the many donors who have contributed to our success. We have unavoidable expenses about \$12,000 per year and your continuing support is appreciated.

Your donations can be made by **Direct Debit**:

- Commonwealth Bank Society Account - BSB 062 112 Account No.1012 9742
- by sending a cheque to the following address, made payable to Wrap with Love Inc.

Wrap with Love

PO Box 10 Rosebery NSW 1445

AUSTRALIA

- via the **Give Now** Website - www.givenow.com.au -

GiveNow

Thank you from World Vision Australia

Over the last 14 years there has been a wonderful partnership between Wrap With Love and World Vision Australia; a partnership that we love and appreciate. The work that you all do in helping those around the world that are less fortunate and most in need is simply amazing.

Over that time Wrap With Love have donated approximately 127,500 blankets with a total value of just over \$10,000,000; an extraordinary achievement by a group of extraordinary people.

The impact that these blankets have had cannot be overstated with countless numbers of families and children being impacted by the wonderful generosity shown by Wrap With Love and the bands of amazing knitters across the country. A few instances come to mind. Zohra, Divin and Saifullah. Thank you and here is to the next 14 years of partnership.

Happy Knitting. Dave Griffiths April 2019



Divin is an orphan from Muyinga in Northern Burundi who lives in an orphanage. He has had difficulty in concentrating in school due to fatigue through a lack of sleep. However the simple act of a blanket donated and a blanket received means that Divin stays warm at night, sleeps well and is able to concentrate in school. He now has the opportunity to change his future and experience life in all it's fullness.

Zohra, 8, is one of the many children who have received support through World Vision in Afghanistan's Street Children Centre (SCC). She has been coming to the Centre almost every day for six months to take part in psychosocial, educational and health services. She looks at her blanket and a smile appears on her face. "I am looking forward to use it tonight! I will take care of it so that I can use it for a long time" she says.

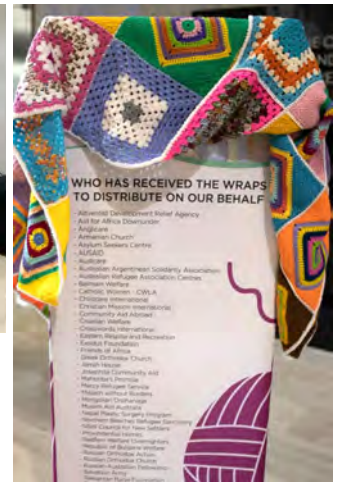


Safiullah, 10, could hardly contain his excitement when he received his warm blanket; he had never owned anything like it before. "That is for me? It is so beautiful!" He hugs his blanket and asks, excitedly, "Can I take it home?" He can't believe that someone has given him a warm blanket. As you can no doubt see the simple act of giving a blanket does indeed have a huge impact on the lives of thousands of children and their families.

Editors' Note

Special thanks to Jennifer Gordon for the layout and photography work, Reg Edwards for his organisational skills and all the willing contributors to this year's Bulletin. Please look at our **Website and Facebook** for new patterns, instructions and up-to-date information. Happy reading, Dale Halloran and Sue Edwards





Photos from the WWL 2019 Knit-In



Wrap with Love Inc - Registration or Renewal

Name _____ Date _____

Organisation name (if applicable)

Mailing address _____
_____ (Post Code)

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email address (please print clearly)

Are you an Area Contact or Drop-off-Depot (DOD) YES NO please circle
if not, are you willing to be an Area Contact or DOD YES NO please circle

Email to info@wrapwithlove.org or Post to: Wrap with Love Inc PO Box 10 Rosebery NSW 1445 Australia