



Annual Bulletin 2023



Warming the World with Love

"Our mission is to distribute wraps through aid agencies and charities to those needing warmth"

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We wrap with Love

Report from the Retired Chair

This is my last report. The past year has been very busy with 27000 wraps given to many charities. More than half of these stayed in Australia for flood victims, women's and men's refuges, nursing homes and indigenous communities. Other destinations were Armenia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Syria and Turkiye and 6000 waiting for Syria where the earthquakes have devastated their countries.

This year is our 30th and we have arranged a celebration to be held on Saturday 5th August at Scots Church Sydney located on the corner of Margaret and York Streets Sydney.

I would like to thank **Patty Bruniges** for all her wonderful help over the years and for listening to me on our trips to the warehouse. Patty is retiring and will be missed.

A huge thank you to **Spotlight** for their help as drop off points throughout Australia. This has been a wonderful help as lots of trucks are not coming to Sydney as regularly as in the past due to covid. Many thanks to the following: -

Chris Fewtrell who travels many kilometres to various destinations and warehouses picking up wraps as we would be lost without him. **DHL** for bags we reuse. **Sydney Council** for the accommodation grant, **Guardian Funerals**, **White Ladies Funerals**, **Tobin Bros** and **Michael Soker**, **Gillian Mauchan** and **Linda Brooke** for our Facebook page, **Dale Halloran**, and **Sue & Reg Edwards** for our amazing bulletin, our wonderful warehouse volunteers who keep turning up each week, all our knitters, crocheters and sewer uppers and thank you for all your amazing work helping to keep people warm in Australia and around the world and all our volunteers, area contacts and drop off facilities.

I would like to welcome the **Wayside Chapel** who are now sharing the warehouse with us. We look forward to working with them.

Wrap with Love has been a big part of my life for 20 years and I am very happy to be handing over the reins to two outstanding women in **Linda Brooke and Alexis Lander**.

Keep safe, healthy, and strong and most of all keep knitting so we can continue keeping people warm.
Lorraine Sutton



Wrap with Love Committee Members 2023

Chair: Linda Brooke **Deputy Chair:** Alexis Landers **Treasurer & Public Officer:** Gillian Mauchan
Secretary: Maureen Shaw **Assistant Secretary:** Lyn Bates **Committee Members:** Lynne Elliot, Meredith Harris, Margaret Kristiansson



Dates for the Year

Saturday 5th August 2023: 30th Anniversary Knit In

Friday 1st December 2023: Last day for dropping off wraps at the warehouse

Friday 8th December 2023: Warehouse closes

Friday 31st January 2024: Warehouse reopens



We knit, we sew, we give

Linda Brooke Chair

I have been involved with WWL over a period of 10 years by way of a knitting group, then as a volunteer at the warehouse and more recently as a committee member. Although I am reasonably new to the Committee, I am well supported by a very strong team who have been involved for many years.

I see us maintaining Sonia's legacy and honouring our Mission Statement of distributing wraps through Aid Agencies to people who are suffering the effects of cold and trauma. In this regard I would like to make us known to a wider range of Aid Agencies both overseas and Australian causes. This will maintain our flexibility in managing distribution issues in challenging times.

In addition of particular interest to me is to take every opportunity to engage the younger generation with our charity and the pleasures of knitting. This is with a view of the charity thriving and continuing in the long term. Everything we do is only possible because of the heartfelt work done by the volunteers.

With gratitude

Linda



We donate to people in need

Alexis Lander Vice Chair

I started volunteering with WWL very soon after I retired from 24 years in NSW corrective Services. I worked there in many roles among them as an education officer, programs and planning officer. From the moment I started at WWL I felt at home. I was welcomed immediately. I was and still am in awe of the wonderful, friendly, and committed group of volunteers that give their time every week in the warehouse and do so much in the community as well. They run knitting groups, arrange collections and pickups, and sew squares together. Without them WWL would come to a grinding halt. I was elected vice chair at the AGM this year. I see my role as a support person to the volunteers in the warehouse, to those women who knit and crochet across the country and to those charities and people who distribute our wraps to those in need. I want to keep them informed of what is happening, answer any queries to the best of my ability and try to solve any problems as they arrive. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on 5th August when we celebrate the 30th anniversary of WWL. Together we can continue wrapping those in need with love through your stunning warm wraps for the next 30 years.

Regards

Alexis

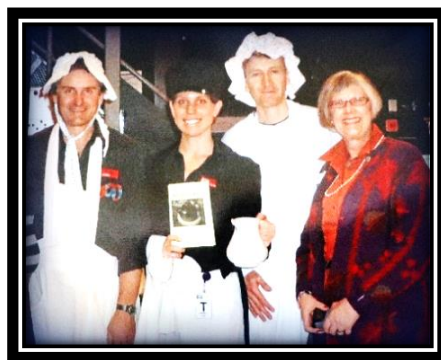
Richard Glover's Reflections of the ABC Knit Ins

The Knit-In was one of my favourite things in my 25 years (so far) on the ABC Drive show. How brilliant of Angela Catterns – an enthusiastic knitter – to get us involved. I remember the fun when she taught me on air how to knit a square for the blankets. We did it step by step, my tongue stuck out because I was concentrating so hard. Somehow, her square turned out square, while the shape I produced is still trying to be named by science.

My other memory is being tea lady for many years, dressed by the ABC costume department in a wig and gown and accompanied by my producer, the wonderful Renee Krosch, who looked very stylish dressed as, I guess, Jeeves from PG Wodehouse. I was very, very pretty, and she was extremely handsome.

Anyway, serving tea was perfect as it gave both of us an excuse to talk to everyone in the room – from kids and teenagers to more skilled knitters – and to understand all the love and passion and talent in the room.

I am sure the Knit-In will remain one of my best memories of working at ABC Radio Sydney – though I also treasure the memory of our increasingly out of control challenges at the Royal Easter Show. Still, maybe the Knit-In was best. Oh, one another thing. As a humour writer in my spare time, I was very pleased with my one-liner when I warned listeners about a whole room of knitting addicts: “many of them sharing needles.”



Volunteers at the warehouse

Ros Noble joined WWL pre covid after her sister read an article on WWL and knowing how Ros enjoys volunteering passed the information onto her. Ros is very much involved in the packing of wraps and using her IT skills in the admin work at WWL. She enjoys this along with likeminded people and learning of the impact that the distribution of wraps has on the lives of people.

Her big love is the Blue Dragon Childrens Foundation where Ros spends time in Vietnam working with the organisation. It was established in 2003 by an Oz teacher and actively helps street kids and rescues people who have been trafficked. Through social work, psychological and legal work they aim to integrate them back into society.



Maureen Shaw on retirement was looking for involvement in an activity and meeting different people. She discovered WWL through **Linda Brooke** and the Stanton Library. She witnesses beautiful craft and has a sense of satisfaction in having done something for really disadvantaged peoples. She is impressed with the purpose of the organisation and that all the makers produce something, have no idea where it is going and do not need recognition for their contributions. Maureen has an excellent skills set to offer and has recently been elected Secretary. She also is very much involved in the organisation of the packing of wraps as well as a range of IT roles.

Mandy Chivers has been involved with WWL since 2007 and in that time has produced 1250 wraps. She was inspired after attending two ABC Knit Ins and an article published in Better Homes and Gardens magazine. Mandy can use squares to produce very creative designs. The squares are sorted into tones of blue and tones of pink and her designs are developed on the wrap outline plan on the floor. She involves her daughter and neighbour and always has work on the go finding it very therapeutic.

Catching up with some knitters, crocheters and stitchers

ACT

The Grange Retirement Village Canberra was founded in 2015 and meets every Tuesday morning in a designated WWL corner in Murray House where friendships grow and personal experiences are shared. Members unable to attend work away at home. The group is very grateful to **Tobin Bros** for collecting and arranging the delivery of their wraps.



New South Wales

Batemans Bay Library Knit In included knitters from St Bernard's Church Batehaven some of whom have been making wraps for 29 years following a visit from Sonia Gidley-King OAM.



Caroline Morris of Yass became involved with WWL on moving to Yass from Canberra in 2012. A chance meeting in a craft group with a lady sewing up squares for WWL led to her being co-opted doing the same. **Margaret Reidy**, the coordinator estimates in the ten years Caroline has probably put together between 55 and 65 wraps a year, so probably 550 to 650 wraps. She gains pleasure in sewing all the squares together making a very colourful and warm wrap for someone in need. Quite often a pattern emerges on spreading out the squares and moving them around until she is satisfied with the

final look. As well as receiving the squares from the WWL group including their disabled members, Caroline receives squares from her Probus group and friends. If she knows who knitted the wrap she will take a photo of the finished work and send it to the maker.



Combined Probus Club of Belrose began an interest knitting/crochet group in 2011 as a result of a talk from **Lorraine Sutton**. The group which consists of knitters/crocheters, designers and sewers has 15 members and contributing friends. On average 100 wraps are produced each year and the group is now close to their 1500th wrap. A design morning filled with laughter and chatter is held every two months. Here squares are sorted and bags are given to the sewers. Wraps are displayed at the Probus meetings. They are grateful to the many donations from the Probus members. The group is very proud of their contribution and the special friendship and fellowship that has developed.



Corowa WWL Knitters began in 2004 and dispatched 333 wraps. By 2010 another 1260 wraps from surrounding towns were distributed. The group averages 12 attendees and meets every Monday and puts together the many squares delivered from multiple knitters in the district. The group are very grateful to **Cannys Transport in Wangaratta** who have delivered approximately 6000. wraps on to Sydney

The Ephpheta Centre provides services to the deaf and hearing impaired people in the dioceses of Sydney, Broken Bay and Parramatta. **The Ephpheta Craft Group** meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at the Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church Homebush.



Epping Library Knitters and Crocheter's Patrizia Conti, reports that the group began in 2007 when Hornsby Council's plan was to open libraries to various activities. The group's numbers grew from the beginning and its membership has changed overtime. When the ABC Knit Ins were held, the library group met with others at Hornsby for the great Knitting Bee and sessions of great inspiration. Council mergers, COVID and lockdowns prevented meetings so work continued at home. Unfortunately due to refurbishing, the group had to meet out doors in a local park where they coped with the cockatoos, wind and sun. Coodinator **Trishe Oberg** managed to secure meeting space at The Epping Club. The group meets weekly and is also involved in other charity projects.



Knotty Kenilworth Knitter's Jessie Robertson started a knitting group at Kenilworth Gardens in Bowral 6 months ago. She was inspired by the dedication of her good friend and much valued WWL volunteer the late Poppy Becher whom she had assisted. The group of 8 meet weekly and the members have become good friends. They have produced 12 wraps of which they are very proud and are delighted to support those in need.



Lorraine Johnson of Moama has been a member of WWL since 1998 and **Nell Black** has been involved from the beginning after **Sister Veronica Joyce** noticed an article about WWL. In 2022 their wraps were given to St Mary's Church for their annual blanket and coat drive.

Narrandera Nattering Nitters started about fifteen years ago with an open invite to everyone writes **Margaret Hocking**. After teaching primary school children to knit and crochet during school holidays, one of the librarians asked **Margaret, Jill Morris** and the late **Ruth Teasdale** if they could knit some squares. Meeting each Wednesday morning the group now has 15 members. In the beginning the squares were sent to the Griffith Rotary Club for transportation to Sydney. When this ceased Margaret approached local contractor **Bernie Hayllar** rewarding him with a packet of Tim Tams for each bag he transported. When they were joined by a lady who showed a completed wrap, the group decided to do the same. Approximately 100 wraps are produced each year as a result of donations from the RSL.

at Narrandera, Probus and Soroptimist Clubs and wool from people who no longer knit. The group also supplies knee rugs to two local nursing homes, bonnets and booties to premie babies and beanies to cancer patients at Westmead Hospital.



The Orange Purlers have been meeting regularly at Orange City Library for more than 12 years and during this time have produced more than 5,300 wraps for WWL. In 2022 713 wraps were able to be distributed with thanks to knitters from Condobolin, Canowindra, Dubbo, Parkes, Molong, Eugowra, Forbes and Cowra. Most of these wraps were transported to Sydney by **Dawson's Removals** (Thank you Michael). A remaining 231 wraps were distributed locally to the flood victims in Eugowra and Lismore, Ukranian refugees in Molong, Orange, Local Aboriginal Land Council, Orange Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Gosling Creek Aged Care, ODEEP, the homeless and others in need. The Purlers also make a range of other items for a range of organisations including Orange Health Service, Premi Babies Association of Orange, Rotary, Mission without Borders and Samaritan Purse Australia. The Orange Purlers have been finalists in two community awards and recognised with a speech to the NSW Parliament by their local member.



Pennant Hills Library

Under the leadership of Patricia Grant, the Pennant Hills group are celebrating a milestone. Since forming in 2007 they have now produced 3,500 wraps.



Redlands School students are encouraged to look for ways to serve the community. Year 11 students supported by staff have had a long standing relationship with the Matthew Talbot Hostel where they provide help in setting up and serving breakfast for around 120 men, many of them homeless, every

Monday morning throughout the year. Listening to a talk from our Chairperson **Linda Brooke** the students were inspired to develop their skills in knitting and crocheting. A lunchtime group has been set up for both boys and girls where their goals are to knit/crochet squares for Wrap with Love. Already 70 students have signed up. Well done on their positive commitment to supporting others less fortunate than them.



St Mary Magdalene Church Rose Bay Knitting Group Elizabeth Hughes was inspired to join WWL 20+ years ago after attending an international conference at Kincoppal Rose Bay at which the late Sonia Gidley-King OAM spoke about WWL. The group including Sonia's daughter Anna, initially met at the convent of the Sacred Heart Rose Bay with 28 members. The members now meet eight times a year for sewing days and celebration of their creations. Elizabeth is inspired by the dedication of the group members, many of whom are involved in other charities. One member is able to make a wrap in a day. Elizabeth's husband collects the wraps including those from the sisters at the convent and delivers them to the warehouse.



Sylvania High School

During winter 2022 the SRC engaged students, staff and the wider school community in the collective purpose of giving back through the Wrap with Love project. Students were visited, assisted and inspired by WWL volunteer **Lyn Bates** who shared her skills and information about WWL. Generous donations of wool and involvement from staff and family members supported the project and enabled the SRC led knitting sessions to occur 2 lunchtimes per week over 10 weeks for all interested students. They were able to produce 13 wraps. Coordinator **Haisley Morrison** witnessed the students develop and exercise their leadership skills. Students from all years come together to learn new skills or teach others. The student leaders showcased a spirit of altruism, holding well being of others at the centre and experience the impact of giving back to the community.



Wagga Wagga Machine Knitters first started knitting wraps in 1995 and joined other handcrafters each year at the annual July Knit In in the Library. From July 2014 the Wrap with Love group meets on a two monthly basis. There is a theme for each meeting with members bringing a theme matching square. So far Autumn and Spring have been the themes. Everyone has a great time and all learn from each other. The local Libraries and the mobile Library collect wraps, squares and yarn from a large area. **Sue Chapman** and **Hespe Piltz** then coordinate a working bee to sort the squares for sewing up. One lady has put together nearly 250 wraps. Approximately 500 wraps a year are sent to Sydney and the group would like to acknowledge the very helpful involvement of **Spotlight**. Of interest, the Kangaroo logo was first used by the Wagga Wagga Machine Knitters.



South Australia

Sue Crouch continues to coordinate WWL in South Australia. Since 1996 a fantastic contribution of 33441 wraps have been produced. A special thanks to **Sue Jackson, Lyn Wells, Sue Powell, Lyn Wilson, Colleen Jaensch, Valerie Webb** and **Dawn Herbig** for coordinating the groups and supplying wraps to the homeless, indigenous groups, refugee associations and the Domestic Violence Service. Many thanks to all the South Australian contributors for their continued commitment to WWL and to **Spotlight** for their support with transportation.

Where have the wraps gone?

Bundeena and Maianbar Group delivered 11 baby wraps and 71 adult wraps to the Lismore District to aid flood victims. These were distributed to Lismore, Byron Bay, Coraki and Wardell areas for delivery by local social workers. A big thanks to **Barbara** who delivered them to Lismore.



Dr Steve Burroughs Foundation was established to support remote aboriginal communities in New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory. The WWL wraps provide warmth from the cold winter nights for the foundation's aboriginal clients. Visits to the communities are monthly with planned bigger contributions during the Christmas holidays and NAIDOC week.



Mala’la Health Service Aboriginal Corporation provides culturally appropriate and comprehensive primary health care services to the people of Mornington community and surrounding homelands with the Northern Territory under a community control model. They are very grateful for the warm blankets sent to the community members.

Peppercorn Services Inc. provides services directly to people in the Hawkesbury local government area and surrounding areas by providing services for people who are at risk of social, economic and geographical isolation.



Syria and Turkiye

Since the earthquake in Turkiye and Syria, WWL has tried hard to get wraps to those affected and have managed to send 3750 wraps to Turkiye and 6000 to Syria.



WWL has received thanks from many organisations and individuals including:

- 🧶 **Riverstone Flood Recovery Assistance Point, Montefiore Aged Care-** Wraps provided warmth and colour to their rooms.
- 🧶 **Uniting Thomas Roseby Lodge** for much joy and love

Thanks to Libraries: Wrap with Love would like to acknowledge all the **Library Staff** involved in providing excellent support given to their knitting groups.

Vale

We acknowledge the passing of the following much loved contributors to Wrap with Love during the past year: **Dianne Cameron, Shirley Chapman, Joan Chilvers, Hilary Christie, Marianna Cincotta, Mary Fitzgibbon, Maureen Goldstein Morris OAM, Patricia Mulhall, Ellen Poile and Phyllis Summerfield.**

We would like to especially acknowledge:

- 🧶 **Kamla Habib** - the proud knitter having completed 760 wraps
- 🧶 **Gina Stante** – aged 100 was a prolific producer of beautiful, skilfully, crocheted and colour coordinated wraps. Every 3 months she produced 12 – 15 wraps and her total output was 500.

Wraps distributed around the world

| Country/ Agency | 2022 | South Africa | 20 |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------|--------------|
| Australia | 15639 | Sri Lanka | 26 |
| Afghanistan | 16 | Solomon Islands | 1100 |
| Africa | 1530 | Syria | 3640 |
| Armenia | 1780 | Tonga | 2000 |
| East Timor | 77 | Ukraine | 219 |
| Fiji | 1199 | Grand Total | 27246 |

WWL 30th Anniversary Knit In

Register now: The event you have been waiting for!!!! We are celebrating at **44 Margaret St, Sydney on the 5th August 2023 10am-1pm**. Click the link for details:
<https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/wrap-with-love-30th-anniversary-knit-in> or alternatively phone **(02) 8399 3000** Wednesday or Friday or email info@wrapwithlove.org .

Donations

The WWL Committee would like to thank the many donors who have contributed to our success. Your donations can be made by direct debit:

- 📄 Commonwealth Bank Society Account - BSB 062-112 Account No.1012 9742
- 📄 by donating online at <https://www.givenow.com.au/wrapwithlove>
- 📄 by sending a cheque to the following address, made payable to Wrap wth Love Inc.
Wrap with Love - PO Box 10, Rosebery NSW 1445. AUSTRALIA

Editors' Note

We would like to thank the following:

- 📄 Lorraine Sutton for her outstanding leadership
- 📄 Patty Bruniges for providing her great expertise in so many ways
- 📄 Ellie Bunt from Wyoming NSW who has been “doing her bit” since 1995 and turned 100 in November last year
- 📄 Pat Day from Townsend in NSW who has been making wraps for 30 years
- 📄 Reg Edwards for his outstanding publishing skills

Happy reading Dale and Sue



A note to all knitters:

“Knitting induces an enhanced state of calm similar to that of yoga” according to Harvard Medical and Body Institute