



*Annual Bulletin*  
*2024*



*Warming the World with Love*

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

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ALEXANDRIA 2015 NSW Australia



# We wrap with love

## Report from the Chair

I acknowledge the Gadigal people as the original custodians of this land. The total number of wraps distributed in 2023 was **29,560**. Of these **11,000** were distributed in Australia to women’s refuges, nursing homes, organisations supporting refugees, bundles for new-born babies, organisations working with indigenous communities, and communities in need. The countries overseas that received our wraps included: Armenia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Syria, Turkiye, Ukraine, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

A big thank you to:

- 🧵 **all our volunteers** who come to the warehouse on Wednesdays and Fridays. Without you WWL wouldn’t function.
- 🧵 **all our area contacts and drop-off points** and everyone who knits and crochets for WWL.
- 🧵 **Sue Edwards and Dale Halloran with help of Reg** for the beautiful annual bulletin and for all the work that goes into making it so special and for so graciously agreeing to do it this year.
- 🧵 **Chris Fewtrell** for traversing Sydney to collect wraps and squares
- 🧵 **Spotlight** who continues with invaluable support making all their stores drop-off points.
- 🧵 **Sydney City Council** for the accommodation grant.
- 🧵 **DHL** for the reusable bags they give us.
- 🧵 **Various transport companies and funeral parlours** which act as drop-off points and then deliver.

**The 30th Anniversary Knit-in** was a huge success and once again I’d like to thank everyone for their hard work and support. While every single person here makes my job so much easier, for which I am truly grateful, it would be remiss of me not to thank **Gillian Mauchan and Lorraine Sutton** specifically for their support, knowledge, patience and advice. It is most appreciated. Alexis Lander



## Wrap with Love Committee Members 2024

**Chair:** Alexis Lander **Vice Chair:** Lyn Bates **Treasurer & Public Officer:** Lyn Bates **Secretary:** Gillian Mauchan **Assistant Secretary:** Lyn Bates **Committee Members:** Lynne Elliot, Chris Fewtrell, Meredith Harris, Pauline McLoughlin, Julie Robertson



**DATES FOR THE YEAR**  
**Friday: 20th December 2024:** Last day for dropping off wraps at the warehouse  
**Friday: 20th December 2024 :** Warehouse closes  
**Friday: 15th January 2025:** Warehouse reopens

We knit, we sew, we give

Celebrating 30 Years 1992-2022

Wrap With Love was founded by Sonia Gidley King, OAM in 1992. Its first home was at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Rose Bay



Sonia Gidley King OAM



WWL celebrated its 30 Year Anniversary with 300 in attendance on the 5th August 2023 at the Scots Presbyterian Church in Sydney. Over the years, many Knit-ins were held at the ABC Studios and other venues. These events brought our knitters, crocheters and stitchers together for a fun day of social activities and work.



Opened by Emelda Davis – Sydney Council



30th Anniversary Knit-in



The WWL warehouse is where the administration is carried out. In between jobs when time allows, we knit and/or sew squares into wraps. We are known as the 'Warehouse Wrappers'!!!



The Warehouse Wrappers



Our generous volunteers have knitted, crocheted & sewn beautiful warm wraps in groups, at home, with friends, at community centres, libraries, schools and retirement villages. During this 30 year period, we have sent more than 600,000 wraps to people in over 75 countries, including Australia.

## Volunteers at the warehouse

Barbara Osborne OAM joined WWL after hearing about the ABC Knit-ins. She became a volunteer by knitting squares and working in the warehouse with a very cohesive team. She is very impressed by the quality of the wraps produced. She thought that the volunteer's work was most impressive and that they worked well together. When Barbara left school she began engaging in support for a range of charities around the world. She has built up an impressive list of supported charities over the years. She was recognised in 2022 for her kindness to others and awarded an **Order of Australia Medal (OAM)** for her outstanding efforts in supporting people less fortunate than herself. At age 88 she is still an active volunteer at the warehouse.



Jenny Scally heard Sonia Gidley King talking to Angela Catterns on the ABC and was so inspired she began knitting. After her retirement Jenny became a volunteer at the WWL warehouse. She has undertaken many tasks including teaching people to knit and crochet and organising morning teas for the volunteers. Jenny also goes to the **Penshurst Purlers WWL Group** twice a month where she picks up beautiful wraps for the warehouse. Jenny is very proud of the organisation and gains much pleasure seeing the wraps distributed around the world. She enjoys the company of the volunteers and likes to see photographs of wraps that are delivered. Over the years she has witnessed a real growth in the numbers and qualities of wraps.



Penny Renshaw became involved in WWL when her sister Sue encouraged her to become a volunteer after she retired. She has now been involved for the past 7 years. Penny has sorted packed and coordinated squares as well as making up wraps. She believes that WWL is a fantastic organistaion where she gains a sense of achievement every time she comes to the warehouse. She enjoys working with the other volunteers and seeing the completed wraps transported around the world. She believes that working at the warehouse puts structure into her volunteering life.



Sue King on retirement became a member of the volunteers at the WWL warehouse. She chose WWL as she was inspired by her mother's involvement with knitting. She thoroughly enjoys the friendship of the volunteers at work. Like others she also gains pleasure in seeing photos of wraps when they are sent to various destinations across the globe. She looks forward to her days at the warehouse and values the fact that WWL is an organisation of volunteers and views it as a great experience in her life.



## Want to be part of the WWL Family

Go to our website <https://www.wrapwithlove.org/> Here you will find lots of information including:

-  **KNITTING GROUPS:** <https://www.wrapwithlove.org/knitting-groups/>
-  **PATTERNS:** <https://www.wrapwithlove.org/knitting-patterns/>
-  **HOW IT WORKS:** <https://www.wrapwithlove.org/how-it-works/>

## Catching up with some knitters, crocheters and stitchers

Ada Cable-de Graaff says that the ABC 702 Knit-In 2008 connected her with knitting again. Her Oma taught her to knit in the 1940s. She now receives yarn from friends and purchases colours needed to complete a wrap to a design that pleases her. At the school where she worked, she started a weekly knitting group and eventually had enough squares to make a wrap. She was so impressed with the imagination of other knitters. It is very satisfying for her to see photos of those smiling faces around the world, holding their wraps and believes that she once saw a child with one of her wraps around him!! She enjoyed the 2023 Knit-in and seeing the amazing wraps on display, hearing informative talks and enjoying morning tea. She brought along a folder of labels from yarns used since 2008. To date she has delivered **42 wraps** to WWL and feels good to be part of the WWL community!



Bankstown Library hosts a weekly WWL knitting group . The group of up to 16 ladies comes together



to knit squares, sew and teach knitting to those eager to learn. Their volunteer leaders are affectionately known as **Lyn Number 1** and **Lyn Number 2**. Library Staff collect the completed wraps and store them ready for delivery to the warehouse. Squares and wool are also donated and those who can't knit can learn how to join the squares together. No wrap is the same and each is made with love and care, a thing of both beauty and colour. Knowing that these contributions are so needed and appreciated gives our

group a great sense of pride and a great program for our library community.

Batemans Bay Library Knitters, with guests from the **Narooma Group**, held a Knit-in at Batemans Bay



Library where they hold their Tuesday monthly meetings. The Wednesday meetings are held at St Bernard's Catholic Church at Batehaven. Circumstances over the past years have led to reduced numbers so many individuals now work at home. The region still manages to deliver around **300 wraps** to WWL. They are farewelling **Venise Hyland**, a stalwart member of the group from its beginning, who has knitted thousands of squares. She is moving back to Victoria with her husband.

Bundeena and Maianbar WWL Group was started by **Meg Peterson** in 2003 after attending an ABC



Knit-in. **Loma Gilmore** took over in 2009 and **Paddy Heskitt** in 2012. The group meets monthly to join squares, sew in ends, teach each other new skills and admire the latest creations. **Pearly Jay** (96) crochets at least 2 wraps per month and **Mary Tagg** (100) is still knitting squares. From donated squares and personal creations roughly **3000 wraps** have been produced since 2009. Paddy's husband **Ken** makes morning tea and helps deliver the wraps to the warehouse.

Freshwater Uniting Church members have been involved with WWL for over 30 years starting at Rose



Bay with Sonia. Members went into the Knit-ins at the ABC for some years and then started to have their own in 2004. Knitters come from local retirement villages, nursing homes, community clubs and members of other churches. They still have Knit-ins which have become quite a social event which everyone enjoys. They act as a drop off place for the area with over **2,500 wraps** being sent to the warehouse. They aim to continue this great outreach. Thanks to Ruth Austin.

Good Neighbours Australia- Belinda Dona reports the focus of the organisation formed in 1991 and



operating in 49 countries is protecting the rights and wellbeing of children. In Australia their work includes supporting displaced people from Ukraine and Myanmar, the launching of its "Winter Warmer Appeal" in 2023 for the people in Ukraine and displaced people in Romania. WWL provided **2000 wraps** and will again be partnering in the second "Winter Warmer Appeal" in 2024.

Gunnedah Knitters - Elaine Bridge (87years young) has been involved in WWL since 1993 after



meeting 2 ladies in a QLD craft shop. Wherever she goes she is always accompanied by her crochet hook and wool. Staying with her daughter in Townsville she introduced the members of the local crochet club to WWL. About 8 people meet on the first Monday of the month at the Lions Hall. Their oldest past member was still crocheting and knitting at age 102. Thanks to the Gunnedah Times for their publication.

Kenthurst Community Craft. Heather Smith noticed a small piece in Column 8 in 1992 regarding a



program of assistance for keeping people warm in cold conditions. Heather started the group at Kentgrove Retirement Village in 1998. To date **2939 wraps** delivered, and several hundred squares waiting to be sewn together by our dedicated friend in the community, Margaret Pritchard doing one wrap a week, for about 13 years. Some wraps have been given directly to Afghan refugees in Australia. **Heather and her husband** deliver the wraps to the warehouse. Heather derives pleasure

from being with friends who want to do something useful.

Lewin Lodge - Uniting Care Springwood. Since 2022 the group has been busy knitting squares to be



made into wraps. Two of the ladies, **Jean** and **Eileen** are in their nineties and **Judith** is remarkable considering her health. **Susan**, who they sadly lost in 2023, was also a big contributor and **Acey** has also helped create some squares. The group has donated **six wraps** so far and took them to the Blaxland Neighbourhood Centre. They all receive a great deal of pleasure, knowing that their efforts will help keep someone warm this winter.

Lou's Place is a sanctuary for women, many facing the harsh realities of homelessness and sleeping rough which can be particularly brutal on cold nights. The wraps from WWL are more than just a means of keeping warm; they are a symbol of care and compassion. To date, they have distributed at least **200** of these wraps, each one bringing a sense of comfort and dignity to those receiving them. For over 2 years WWL has woven a tapestry of warmth and comfort for these women by providing beautiful, handcrafted wraps that serve as more than just physical coverings. The joy of the recipients is amazing.



Made in the Monaro has been coordinating a WWL operation since 2020 with donations of yarn and squares arriving weekly for members to sew up on a regular basis. **Karen Farrell** reports that a weekly **Stitch-Up** is held on Thursday mornings for the social wellbeing of the group. Made in the Monaro took over from the dedicated **Kelly (Winn) Morley** who was assisted by the **Cooma Library** and prior to Kelly, **Betty Mattner** was the coordinator. They are fortunate to have others in Cooma as well. **Jenny from Snowline Travel** recalls that back in the 90s she encouraged locals to knit on tour by giving them wool and needles. On one tour to New Zealand **11 wraps** were made and overall **760 wraps** have been made since 2004. Regular members include **Ruth, Carol and Mika** (completed **62 wraps** this year). Thanks to **Monaro Freight** who transport their wraps FOC.



Mount St. Benedict College Pennant Hills has been part of the WWL community for more than a decade contributing thousands of squares and hundreds of wraps. What began as a staff initiative led by **Mrs Kelly Heaton** has grown to include students, parents and grandparents engaging in the community and is a tangible way to live out the college values of hospitality, stewardship and pax. Staff and students meet weekly at lunchtime to knit and crochet. Beginners are always welcome and learn from others in the group. It is very rewarding to see students move from beginners to confident knitters teaching other students, quickly completing squares and sewing wraps together. The value of being part of WWL extends beyond the outcome of providing wraps, it creates community and nurtures everyone who participates. Deputy Principal, **Mrs Karen Keogh**, teachers and **Mrs Melina Moyes** introduced it as an activity at a retreat and it was so well received that knitting squares has become part of some of the camps and retreat programs for Years 7 to 12 so almost every student now contributes to WWL. Many staff have been involved and it is now part of the College's Mission Team activities and has a permanent home in the Library thanks to **Mrs Bec Shiels** and the Library Team. The College is proud to support this wonderful organisation .



**Newcastle Suburbs Networkers- Fran Miller** started making wraps after reading an article in Better Homes and Garden. In 2005 she read about **Shirley Chapman** in the Newcastle Herald and joined her group. Shirley was unable to continue in 2021 and Fran became co-ordinator. **Helen Coady** brings squares from **Wallsend Library** and **Merewether Swimmers Group**. Sewing is shared by **Margaret, Toni, Fran and Sandra**. **Lyn** from Kurri Kurri sends her squares with a sewing plan. The wraps are taken by **Fran and husband Neil** to Spotlight- Bennetts Green to be sent to Sydney. Local donations of wraps have been made to **Rutherford High, Maitland and East Maitland**.



Orana Women's Health Centre - **Bernadette Hoy**, based in the Sutherland Shire, started the knitting group in 2011. The group has been involved with WWL since then. What started as a once-a-week group in Caringbah has grown to twice weekly now at GyMEA on a Tuesday and at the Taren Point Bowling Club on a Thursday. The group has completed over **1900 wraps** in that time. **Bernadette** has loved seeing the friendships blossom from their weekly get togethers. "It gives the women a purpose for meeting, and they love feeling that they are giving back to the community."



ProjectKindness works with disadvantaged people who are often living in less favourable social and economic circumstances, often financially disadvantaged or living with disabilities or mental illness. ProjectKindness is driving change by reducing their vulnerability and improving their day to day living, connecting communities in need with goods and services that change people's lives for the better. It also provides disadvantaged people with support and an opportunity for social contact to improve their integration into the community. When **Clementine Hartson**, the founder of the organisation was a little girl her mother would say "look for the helper - you will always find them". To this day, she still remembers this and is always comforted by so many caring people in the world. They now provide up to **20 beautiful wraps** a week to those in need. Congratulations WWL - 30 years is a remarkable achievement.



Sans Souci Knitting Group started at Sans Souci Library in 2011. They host a very much-loved productive flagship event at the Library with currently 22 active participants. The creative ladies of the wonderful community meet twice a month to knit squares and to create beautiful warm wraps to be donated to WWL to support the people in the world who are suffering hypothermia.



Springwood Craft Ladies celebrated WWL's 30th Anniversary. **Bev Blizard**, who has been with WWL for 29 years, started by assisting her disabled Mother-in-law. She has continued as a local contact and **has received hundreds of wraps from friends, strangers, Probus ladies, Springwood Presbyterian ladies** and many anonymous people. **Bev** and husband **Ray** deposit the wraps at Windsor Library. Their goal is **100 wraps** per year. This year they have so far delivered **117 wraps** plus many beanies.





Sydney Mechanics' School of Art Knitting Group (**SMSA**) was started by members pre -Covid and was disbanded during lockdown, but restarted in early 2022. Since then, the enthusiastic knitters have produced **36 wraps** which were forwarded to WWL. The group is coordinated by **Elaine Taylor and Zena Lovison** and meets twice a month at the Tom Keneally Centre Sydney.



Terrigal Uniting Church Group has met since WWL first began. The small group of ladies was led by **Joan Gay** (in her late 90's) until 2023 and now by **Jenni Lamont**. They are a committed group, knitting wraps to provide warmth for humanity on a global scale. This is an important ministry knowing they can provide some care to people in war torn countries, homeless people and those displaced for whatever reason. Last year the group celebrated WWL's 30th along with **Joan**. They had their first Knit-in at the church last year and included a few ladies from **Nareen Gardens Aged Care in Bateau Bay**. This year the ladies made **21 wraps** which **Graeme and Judy** dropped off. They value hearing where the wraps go to and who they benefited. One of the ladies **Faye** has created a kit of knitting instructions, designs and size for squares plus a set of knitting needles and some wool for those who may like to knit.



**West Ryde Knitting Group** is one of four groups operating out of the City of Ryde Library branches coordinated by **Angela Phippen**. The library service began its involvement with WWL in 2006 with the West Ryde group being formed in 2009. It has been a welcoming space for women who are committed creatively to help others. The group meets twice a month and describe itself as a big, productive and very friendly family. They have contributed many wraps to the Ryde Library's annual August knit-in where, since 2016, **1390 wraps** have been completed. One member sees the friendships they have developed

like the worsted yarn. "Like worsted, our spirits and joy are spun and twisted into strong and versatile relationships, where life experiences are like patterns on the blanket, knitted together in colourful arrays, with each stitch that is neither tight nor loose – a balanced bond. I liken the colourful arrays to the various ethnicities amongst us where language and cultural differences are blended into the patterns like interlocking stitches"



Argentina A personal message from Argentina (**Saludos desde Argentina**) - **María del Valle Pergamino** from Argentina writes" I wish to tell you that your inspiration has crossed several seas. Through turns of life, one of the wraps arrived at my home, and has wrapped not only the physical body but also the soul of an elderly woman who, since she saw your work, has been inspired to do the same to loved ones. This is my mother, **María Emilia** (96 years old) who knits the squares and I join them. Thank you very much for your work and inspiration, God bless you!"



## ACT

The Dr Steve Burroughs Foundation (DSBF) operates in remote Australia assisting those who almost never see anyone, receive anything or suffer real poverty. We help with various items including: toys, bikes, sleeping bags, clothing, wraps, manchester and inspire them to establish small enterprises. They work from the Queensland to the Victorian borders and west to Broken Hill servicing some **200+ communities**. Since 2022, they have started back to the Kimberley in Western Australia, The Northern Territory and Queensland. Many of the people supported have been affected by bush-fires, floods and other traumas with little or no grants or

subsidies. This financial year with the help of corporate sponsors they were able to gift **five million dollars in merchandise** to communities. Dr Steve sends his thanks to WWL for their support and to all who make the wonderful wraps and a **“big thank you”** and love from all the families and the foundation that have received these beautiful wraps.

## South Australia

**Belair Blackwood** welcomed the **Langton Park Retirement Knitters** under the guidance of **Candy McLeay**. They have already distributed wraps to WWL in Sydney as well as locally to **Our Street Family Matters**. **Coorwood** sent off **159 wraps** to Sydney via Spotlight Noarlunga Centre. The wraps came from **Hillbank, Underdale, Southern Cross- The Pines et al**. They would like to welcome more knitters and crocheters. **From Strathalbyn, 35 wraps** were delivered to the **Lutheran Care at Blair Athol** and were warmly received. Thanks to **Julie** who decided to hang up her crochet hook after many years. Wraps have also been delivered to **Adelaide Day Centre for the Mary Magdalene Centre for the Homeless** and others to **The Hut at Aldgate**. Many thanks to all the coordinators and volunteers.

## Victoria

**Seamless SMSF** is an outsourcing solution for **Accountants and Financial Planners** who love to use their business platform to make a difference in the community. **Taryn Holman** says they were inspired by **Ian Robertson** to support WWL with a goal of encouraging everyone to knit a square. They are encouraging staff to spread the word and as a younger workforce appreciate that making a difference doesn't cost a lot of money just a little bit of time and effort. WWL shows the power of community in making a life changing difference for someone.



**Barwon Heads/Bellarine Knitting Group** delivered wraps to **The Ngwala Willumbong Corporation in St Kilda** for homeless aboriginals. They also delivered wraps to **Lazarus House**, a centre in Geelong where homeless people can shower, wash and dry their clothes, have a light meal and sleep on couches under our wraps! Deliveries were also made to the **Geelong Mums Group** providing aid to young mothers who just loved the wraps. The group have also delivered wraps to **Zariki School Tanzania**. The group is now up to 80 members -well done



**What WWL means to our volunteers, knitters, crocheters, stitchers and other supporters**

WWL gives me an outlet for my crocheting and knitting - Gillian

I really enjoy the times that I spend sewing wraps together - Margaret

Just love coming to the warehouse - Mem

Beneficial on many levels - Jan



Coming to WWL has been such a joy - great camaraderie - Julie



We are thrilled to be part of WWL - Dale, Penny and Jan



It is nice to be useful, needed and helping others - Chris



Love the creativity and the comfort the wraps bring to the needy - Kathy



We love visiting the Warehouse. It is now over 25yrs!! - Janette and Rosalind



WWL does a great job and I love being part of it - Rosalind



It is so satisfying to be able to help others - Sue



Enriches my life - Alexis



I feel great being part of WWL - Marilyn



WWL has been a big part of my life - Lorraine





**A huge thanks to all our volunteers and supporters - A big toast to all**

Thanks to Libraries: WWL acknowledges all the Library Staff involved in providing excellent support given to their knitting groups. Congratulations to **Penant Hills Library** reaching 4000 wraps.



**Vale** We acknowledge the passing during the past year of:

-  **Jeanette Bissell, Elsie Clear, Gail Russell, Noelene Unwin, Pat Whitty, Joan Williams.**
-  **John Christian** a much loved and most highly respected longtime volunteer who was always the friendly greeter of visitors and keeper of accurate records on a Friday. During and post Covid he continued his involvement, along with his wife Helen, by sewing up squares.



**Retiring Volunteers,** We thank the following volunteers for their much valued contributions to Wrap with Love: **Sue Croucher, Pauline Dunk and Maureen Fox**




We would like to thank:

-  **Woollahra Council, IMB Bank, Tanya Plibersek and the Federal Department of Industries** for grants for wool.
-  **Aida Portero** who has been producing hundreds of squares for 25 years
-  **Global Impact Mission** working in the Philippines and Vietnam

**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**
-  **donating online at <https://www.givenow.com.au/wrapwithlove>**
-  **sending a cheque made payable to Wrap with Love Inc. to the following address - Wrap with Love - PO Box 10, Rosebery NSW 1445. AUSTRALIA**



Wraps around the World 	Country/ Agency	2023		
	Armenia	3625	Syria	6062
	Australia	10951	Türkiye	3761
	Ethiopia	250	Ukraine	2032
	Fiji	100	Vanuatu	279
	Philippines	2430	Zimbabwe	70
			<b>Total</b>	<b>29560</b>
			<b>GRAND 30YR Total</b>	<b>618810</b>



**Editors' Note:**



We would like to thank the following:

-  **Alexis** for her excellent leadership
-  **Reg** for his outstanding contributions, formatting and publishing skills.

**Happy reading Dale and Sue**

**The only difference between an experienced knitter and new knitter is that the experienced knitter makes bigger mistakes faster. Be bold; there are no terrible consequences in Knitting."** Stephanie Pearl-McPhee