



## *Annual Bulletin* *2025*

### *Warming the World with Love*

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



#### **CONTACT US**

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ABN 54 188 564 833

#### **OFFICE/WAREHOUSE**

10-00am to 2:30pm  
Wednesday & Friday only  
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ROSEBERRY NSW 1445

#### **DELIVERY ADDRESS (no mail)**

Unit 4 South Sydney Industrial Estate  
4 Huntley Street (off Bourke Rd)  
ALEXANDRIA 2015 NSW Australia

## Report from The Chair

Once again, we have had a great year filled with lovely wraps and squares. **Wrap with Love** distributed around 19,257 wraps in 2024 and so far this year we have distributed over 10,000. About 45% of the wraps were distributed to people in need in Australia including women's refuges, nursing homes, organisations supporting refugees, bundles for new-born babies, organisations working with indigenous communities, people coming out of gaol and communities in need. A palliative care unit for indigenous children in the **Prince of Wales Children's Hospital** and one in the **St George and Sutherland Hospital** have both taken wraps for patients.



Wrap with Love has worked with **Good Neighbours Australia** to send wraps to Bangladesh, Romania, Vietnam and The Philippines. We have worked with other charities and not for profit organisations to send wraps to Armenia, Lebanon, East Timor, Tanzania, Uganda and Syria.

For the first time Wrap with Love had a stand at the **NSW Seniors Festival Expo**. The general consensus from all the volunteers, who manned the stand over the two days, was that it was highly successful and worthwhile with a lot of people enquiring about knitting groups and the service Spotlight provides us. We were also able to connect and network with various organisations about starting up knitting groups in retirement villages and nursing homes. We are looking forward to participating again next year.

This year also saw the redesign of our website, which we hope you will find easier to navigate. Thank you to **Michael Soker**, our website provider, for all the design work and assistance in developing the site. <https://wrapwithlove.org/>

Several volunteers have been invited to make presentations at knitting groups and schools all of which have been greatly appreciated. I'd like to thank the volunteers who went in their own time and took with them samples of wraps and copies of brochures, templates and the Annual Bulletin.

Recently **Channel 7** visited **Burwood Library Knitting Group** and featured a delightful segment on the members of the group and their beautiful wraps. It was a great advertisement for WWL.

Wrap with Love's Knit-in was held this year, again at the Scots Church, on Saturday 10th May. Over 250 people attended making it a great success with wonderful guest speakers including **Zann Maxwell, Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney, Lorraine Sutton** a warehouse volunteer and two knitting group convenors **Pamela Webster and Nadia Sandona** (on behalf of her mother's group).

As always I would like to thank those who make my job so much easier:

- 🧶 everyone who knits and crochets for WWL
- 🧶 all our volunteers who come on Wednesdays and Fridays. We have welcomed new volunteers this year
- 🧶 all our area contacts and drop-off points
- 🧶 **Sue, Dale and 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** for traversing Sydney to collect wraps and squares
- 🧶 **Wayside Chapel**, our co-tenants, for the extremely good relationship we have with them
- 🧶 **Spotlight** for its invaluable support making all their stores drop-off points
- 🧶 **Sydney City Council** for the accommodation grant & **Woollahra Council** for a grant for yarn
- 🧶 **Tanya Plibersek** for facilitating a grant from the federal government
- 🧶 **DHL** for the supply of reusable bags
- 🧶 The transport companies and funeral parlours which act as drop-off and delivery agents.

**Be well, stay safe and keep knitting. - Alexis Lander Chair**



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025



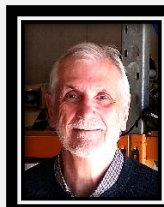
**Alexis Lander**  
Chair



**Julie Robertson**  
Secretray and Public Officer



**Lyn Bates**  
Treasurer



**Chris Fewtrell**



**Kerry Gordon**



**Mem Basnett**



**Pauline McLoughlin**



**Gillian Mauchan**



**Roz Noble**



### A Girl Named Sue - Sue Edwards' association with WWL began in 2006 whilst she was teaching



at Pennant hills High School. She heard Angela Catterns talking about the ABC Knit-Ins and decided that this would be a wonderful school community project. She spoke on the school assembly, at a staff meeting and P&C meeting and set up weekly lunchtime meetings where staff and students could knit or learn to knit. The principal and students from the Special Ed. class also learnt to knit. During the school holidays, Sue organised a working bee to sew together all the knitted squares including contributions from parents and grandparents. In 2006, 29 wraps were produced, followed by 45 in 2007 and 150 in 2008. Each year Sue took a group of SRC students to the ABC Knit-Ins where, one year, she was interviewed by Simon Marnie for the television news. On retirement, Sue became a regular volunteer at the warehouse where she performs multiple tasks including co-editor

of the annual bulletin since 2019. Her influence has spread into her wider local community so that each time she attends the warehouse she is accompanied by a minimum of 10 wraps. To this day she feels that WWL motivates her to help those in need and she really enjoys reading stories of where the wraps have gone and to see the joy on the faces of the recipients via the many photographs.



**Thanks WWL - Dear Gillian,** What a pleasure it was to receive your email. Thank you for sending the link of the latest bulletin. Since losing my sight, I have learned many skills using technology to replace the reading program to enable me to continue reading, writing and communicating in general. What a wonderful world! I am nearing the last quarter of my second blanket, the colour of cobalt blue, with more wool, the colour of violet and lilac, waiting in the wings to make up a third blanket. Do take care, stay well and keep warm. **Best regards, Janine**



## THE VOLUNTEERS AT THE ★★ ★ WAREHOUSE

**Gillian Mauchan** became involved with WWL after hearing about the ABC Knit-Ins. Gillian is a powerhouse at the warehouse and undertakes the role of Web manager which includes upgrades and updates. She also oversees the distribution of the bulletin via post or on line. In her spare time she assists with the development of wraps from the many squares arriving at the warehouse. She is also an active member of the WWL committee having been a member for several years.



**Maki Furlong** "My neighbour Gillian introduced me to WWL and I've been packing wraps for eight years. Originally from Japan, I may not have any craft skills but I enjoy working and socialising with the Wednesday team. For me, WWL is where I learnt the meaning of volunteering. I continue to be moved by the warmth and kindness of those who donate beautiful handmade squares and wraps as well as everyone involved in WWL. I will continue volunteering at WWL and help bring warmth and smiles to those in need."



**Margaret Kristiansson** joined WWL 10 years ago to use her passion for knitting to help warm humanity. Answering the phone calls enables me to speak to many enthusiastic knitters. When needed, I also help sorting the many squares that come into the WWL warehouse. Volunteering at WWL warehouse is very enjoyable and is something I look forward to each week. There is great camaraderie and satisfaction with all that we achieve together. WWL is a wonderful charity and its many volunteers contribute toward helping the lives of others in the world who are less fortunate.



**Thanks WWL** "I was blessed with a beautiful crocheted blanket from your generous, kind and warm hearts today. Thank you so much for each precious stitch that went into it. I will give it to my Autistic son who is going through a tough time. I just know he will treasure it and appreciate it more than I can put into words. Please thank each and every person that helps with this amazing work. Your open, kind hearts spread a love and care that every one of us must learn from! Thank you once again. Be blessed with your mission! Know that you truly touch hearts and lives stitch by stitch!" **Stephanie**



### **Ardency Aroona Retirement Resort in Yowie Bay - Kay Godfrey** writes that the resort has



had a group of knitters for the last 20 years. The group, which grew in numbers after the COVID lockdown, has at least 15 active knitters and crocheters and meets every day. Enthusiasm for knitting squares has recently grown and in 2024, 329



squares and 17 wraps were produced. So far in 2025, 22 wraps have been produced. Other projects include baby wraps and trauma bears. The members of the group enjoy the good company and knowing that they are providing warmth for people less fortunate than themselves. Jill, (in top right photo) has completed more than a hundred wraps since the early 2000s. She designs, knits and completes them entirely on her own, each one is different!

**Barwon Heads/Bellarine (Victoria) Group - Rosie Fairbairn**, co-leader, transports wraps from Sydney and reports their distribution to the Melbourne City Mission, Ngwala Willumbung Aboriginal Corporation St. Kilda and Our Village (for vulnerable families across Victoria to care for babies and children).

**Batemans Bay Group** met for a meeting and Knit-in on Tuesday 13th August 2024. It was an opportunity to thank **Venise Hyland** (centre) for 31 years of knitting and crocheting wraps and to farewell her in advance of her moving to Victoria. She began her WWL journey when Sonia Gidley-King OAM visited Batemans Bay and left inspired locals to take up knitting needles for the cause. She has been a stalwart member of the group knitting thousands of squares. Venise averaged twelve wraps per year. Sadly **Ruth Evans** passed away in October. She had been an active member of a WWL group on the Central Coast for many years before moving to Batemans Bay where she joined the Batemans Bay group. She enthusiastically encouraged other residents to knit for WWL



**Berry Knit with Love -Lyn Oades**, co-leader, started the group 18 years ago and now has 21



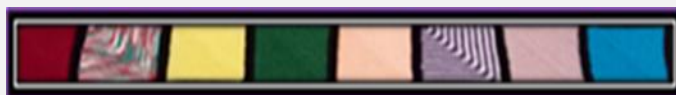
active members. The group is affiliated with **St Luke Anglican Church** and meets weekly in the church hall. The members produce about 70 wraps a year with some being distributed locally. The members also knit garments for the local charity SALT and soft toys for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Box appeal, thus allowing for a variety of interests and skill levels. The members are passionate about the value of knitting to the individual, not only to encourage a skill, but prompting them to consider others.



**Blackheath KnitWits** - **Jo Williams** writes that the group, which draws members from the upper Blue Mountains between Wentworth Falls and Mt. Victoria, has been creating squares and wraps for over 30 years. 8 -12 members meet on a Tuesday afternoon at Leura with another 4 - 8 working from home. The 70 - 100 wraps completed each year are transported to the Windsor Library for transport to the warehouse by **Chris Fewtrell**. Some are distributed locally to: the Cancer Wellness Group in Leura, Thrive Services (supporting children, families and others in Lithgow and the Blue Mountains), Steven Walker Children's Cancer Research Organisation (keeping children warm during chemo treatment), a local women's refuge, Junction 142 (assisting the homeless) and needy local individuals. The members of the group enjoy meeting and crafting together in a welcoming, supportive, non-competitive group with the "free and gifting" ethos of WWL.



**Bonnyrigg Knitting Group** began in February 2018 and is coordinated by **Rachel Versace**. They meet every Wednesday morning. The group of 10-18 ladies has knitted/crocheted 634 wraps over the years which have been made up from colourful squares. All the squares are joined together by **Pandorka Loncar**, who together with Rachel deliver the wraps to the warehouse.



**Bulli Craft Group** - **Diana Bradshaw** writes that the group has been involved since the 1990's when the minister's wife **Lyndal Estherby** invited Sonia Gidley King OAM to speak at a Women's Day event. After hearing her story, a lot more people became interested in helping WWL. About 8 to 10 people regularly attend each week at the Bulli Uniting Church. The group has averaged around 350 wraps per year, both their own and local contributions from outside the group and sewing up squares from the warehouse and Corrimal Library.



**Diana's son Grant**, who lives close to the warehouse and regularly visits his parents and son, transports the completed wraps to the warehouse and picks up squares to be sewn up. The members of the group always look forward to their Tuesday mornings and the following lunch where they solve all the world's problems. They are very pleased to contribute to warming the bodies and the hearts of people with handmade wraps that are made with much love.



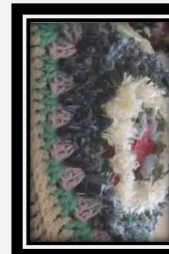
## Camden Haven Wrap with Love Group - Anne Slager, through the local school's Home



Science Department, responded to an urgent call from Sonia Gidley King OAM to make use of stored yarn to make wraps. The group began in 1993 and grew as a result of promotions beginning with knit ins, information in church bulletins, ABC guest speaker, speaking at craft groups and the CWA, displays in the church hall and articles in the Kendall and Laurieton newspapers.

In 2003 the group made 98 wraps (31 from Mary Opdam), by 2009, 471 and 2010, 516. The overall total since the beginning is 5,555. Numbers have steadily declined and the group now consists of 4 dedicated members whose creative talents produce high quality wraps. Acknowledging the work of **Joy, Irene, Allen and Margaret** (Latter 2 producing about 120 wraps a year), family members, **Dianne and Sue (sewing), Geoff Watman and Jim Pearson** for transport. When there is a need locally, wraps are distributed

through "Community at 3" to; the homeless or disadvantaged, to the local nursing home, refuge centre and the indigenous community.



## Good Neighbours Australia – In Vietnam one

in five still live below the poverty line. In remote communities, vulnerable children still have limited access to proper education and healthcare. With this in mind, **Good Neighbours** has been supporting disadvantaged children in Vietnam through its child sponsorship and community development programs.

**Good Neighbours Australia in 2024** partnered with like minded organisations and secured much-needed products from volunteers of Australian organisations: Days for Girls Australia and Wrap With Love. **Good Neighbours Australia** has been

supporting disadvantaged children in Vietnam since 2018. These children and their families mostly live in remote, mountainous regions, which are susceptible to cold temperatures. Thanks to Australian partner Wrap With Love for a total of 3,370 school and pre-school children in remote communities in Vietnam received colourful knitted wraps giving them warmth during rainy days and cold winter nights. **Yen** 13 yrs old said "These wraps are really beautiful. I can't believe they were made by hand. I really like it, my mum doesn't even dare to use it because it's too beautiful. I always dream of being



able to knit a blanket like this someday, but today I have it and it's from far away Australia. This is really a precious gift for me. Thank you Good Neighbours very much, thank you Wrap With Love for sending so much love to us". In **Bangladesh** the organisation distributed close to 3000 wraps in a similar fashion. **Oishi**, a grade-10 student, comes from a poor and struggling family in Bangladesh. Winters in her region can be harsh, making daily life challenging. Despite these difficulties, Oishi remains committed to her education, dreaming of a brighter future. Recently, **Oishi** received a large knitted blanket from Wrap With Love as well as a Days for Girls Kit to help with her menstrual health needs. The blanket came as a true blessing during the cold winter months, providing her with

much-needed warmth and comfort. It wasn't just a practical gift, but also a symbol of support, offering Oishi the protection she needed and encouragement to focus on her studies and stay healthy. Thank you Good Neighbours Australia – for information and photos.

### Hawkesbury Library Knit (Windsor) Group - Sonia Ward writes that the Hawkesbury

group started in July 2007, being inspired by the ABC Knit-in with Angela Catterns and there being so much interest in knitting. The group which meets on the last Friday of the month has grown over time with a core group of 20 but can reach 35. They currently send 65 wraps each month to the warehouse. Some wraps were distributed locally during the Windsor flood period. All members enjoy knitting purposefully and creating something that will be used and appreciated. Special mention of **Janine Plummer** who last year produced her first attempt at making a wrap without looking after losing her sight 10 years ago.



### Nuba Mountains Mission "The blankets you made for us have been shipped to Kenya in a 12



metre container, transported by truck through Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan, then into the Nuba Mountains where our mission has distributed them to the needy, impoverished and disabled folk. In this part of the world, for the next few months, cold northerly winds make nights and mornings



very cold. The blankets these dear people now have are the most beautiful things they'll ever own. Your blankets have brought great delight and comfort to the people who have received them. Yours gratefully, **Heather Luxford** - On behalf of our mission to the disabled in the Nuba Mountains."

### NSW Seniors Festival 2025 For the first time Wrap with Love had a stand at the NSW Seniors Festival Exp. The general consensus from all the volunteers,



who manned the stand over the two days, was that it was highly successful and worthwhile with a lot of people enquiring about knitting groups and the service Spotlight provides us. We were also able to connect and network with



various organisations about starting up knitting groups in retirement villages and nursing homes. The volunteers provided constructive feedback and ideas on how to make it even better. We've been invited to submit an EOI for next year which we've accepted.

**Penrith Library Community Knitters** - Susan Higgins says the group was formed about 15 years ago and during the early days had 30-40 members. Now about 20 people meet on the first Monday of the month. In the 15 years approximately 4,500 wraps have been produced and now each month a bag of squares is sent to the warehouse. Some of the wraps are delivered to: **Rev. Ross** for his work with the homeless, Penrith Cancer Wellness Centre and to aged care facilities. The members say they derive pleasure from their social interaction, giving to those less fortunate, sharing of ideas and having something to work towards.



**Rockhampton Southern Cross Kids Camps** - Daniel Hammond first heard of WWL from a volunteer who also works at MAD (**Young People Making a Difference**) camps. The children at this SCKC camp loved their specially chosen personal wraps and it was not uncommon to see a camper bundled up in their wrap around an early morning campfire. At the camp, children receive love, attention and positive regard. They partake in a variety of activities including high ropes, climbing wall, craft, billy carts, singing and dancing.



**Stella Maris Port Botany** provides pastoral care services and support for seafaring people, some of whom spend many months at sea. When they visit Sydney Stella Maris gives them care packs. This year they requested wraps to be placed in their packs and we provided them with 300. They celebrated Seafarers Day on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The gentleman in the centre of photo lost his home in Ukraine - **Anne-Marie Gallagher**



**Dr Steve and Jane Burroughs.** "One story that I received only days ago from regional NSW was an elderly lady in Palliative Care. We had passed one of your blankets to her in late 2023 and before Christmas she passed. In an email received from one of the health workers to me she explained how the blanket was the lady's prized possession. She loved the colour, the feel and she gathered warmth and love from the blanket. After the elder had passed her daughter was going through her personal effects and found a note asking me to pass along her thanks for the beautiful blanket. So let me also pass along again our sincere thanks and love for supplying us with wraps. To all of you who sit and knit these wraps, we love you for your dedication, your talent and commitment to providing us and so many others the chance to share the love you put into every blanket."



**A Special story** - I just wanted to share this. "I'm sitting at the car dealership waiting for my car to get serviced and I saw this lovely gentleman knitting. I asked him what he was knitting and he told me about your organisation WWL. His name is **Glen Powell**." Well done Glen



**Congratulations to Boni Maywald** (Kiama Coordinator) for her nomination to be included on the **NSW Hidden Treasures Roll** in recognition of her voluntary work. This roll recognises women who volunteer in regional, rural and remote centres of NSW



**Thank you WWL** – “Last week I received a beautiful knitted purple blanket with your name sewn in the back. I love it! Thank you so much. We were flooded in Taree and this means so much especially on a cold day like today. Forever grateful and so appreciated” **Judy Bennet** ❤️❤️❤️

**South Windsor Public School** where the wraps, perfectly suited to each child, were an absolute hit with the students and are truly cherished. The children sit wrapped in them while watching TV or proudly display them on their bed.



**Tocumwal Knitters and Knatters** was started about 15 years ago by the then librarian **Leanne Waldron** for her mother and friends. The group, which at one time grew to about 16, meets each Thursday in the local library. Their numbers, with their oldest member **Lerle** being 97, now are somewhat depleted. They think that they have produced over that time approximately 40,000 squares. Some of the squares have been used to make knee rugs for the local hostel. Other projects include pouches for local wildlife rescue, prem babies' jackets and bonnets, scarves and beanies for the homeless and beanies for the end-of-life cancer sufferers.



**Maggie Lowe** writes: “Hello Wrappers, I found this sad old teddy bear on the side of our road, so I brought him home, did some woolly surgery on his mouth and now he sits happily on my WWL Squares. I have been knitting for WWL since the early 1990's and love how your organisation has evolved. Keep up the good work”



**Thanks to Libraries:** WWL acknowledges all the Library Staff involved in providing the excellent support given to their knitting groups.

**We would also like to thank:**

- 🧶 The staff from **Elanco** at Kemps Creek
- 🧶 **Melanie Harris** who in her 16 year association with WWL has collected squares from aged care homes and sewn them into wraps
- 🧶 An elderly gentleman from Orange who has contributed 20 to 25 wraps each year for WWL
- 🧶 The knitting group from the parish of **St Bernadette's Clement Park and Our Lady of Lourdes Earlwood**



## ANNUAL KNIT-IN 2025



They came from Cootamundra, Kiama and Nowra to join in the bi-annual Knit-In of about 250 people at the Scots Church Sydney May 10. Deputy Lord Mayor Zann Maxwell officiated and a highlight was the presence of Rosina Tribba (90+), the founder of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Mt. Pritchard Group.



## DATES FOR THE YEAR

Friday: 12th December 2025 Last day for dropping off wraps at the warehouse  
 Friday: 19th December 2025: Warehouse closes  
 Friday: 14th January 2025: Warehouse reopens

## Vale

Jean Daniel, Ruth Evans, June Hullands, Mary Opdam (100), Barbara Wooley, Meg Beaver (100) who joined in 1994 and held the roles of Secretary and Publicity Officer. She continued to contribute up to 2 years ago.

Susan Crouch with 10+years dedication to WWL South Australia.

Pat Day was introduced to WWL in 1992 and became the stalwart coordinator of the Yamba and Maclean Group.




Jan Riddell whose final contribution included 2 wraps and 255 squares.

## Retiring Volunteers,

We thank the following volunteers for their much valued contributions to WWL: Venise

Hyland (Batemans Bay) 31 years of knitting and crocheting wraps: Jenny Brown retiring Area Contact for Wangaratta Victoria. Lyndall Forrest - Area Contact and Knitting Group Leader from Old Bar Knitting Group

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	2025	2024		2025	2024
Argentina		2017	Romania		3062
Australia	4167	5033	Syria		2555
Bangladesh		2895	Tanzania		33
East Timor		34	Uganda	165	165
Lebanon		500	Vanuatu		80
Philippines	3000		Vietnam	3000	3048
Total				10332	19257
Grand Total to Date					647546

## 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, Sue & Reg

