

Wrap with Love
for cold humanity

ANNUAL BULLETIN 2016



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10.00am to 3.00pm
Wednesday & Friday only
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Alexandria NSW Australia

IN THE NEWS ...

MEG BEAVER is one of our longest-serving volunteers, in fact almost an original. It all started when a friend gave Meg some left-over yarn and needles, and suggested she phone WWL's founder Sonia Gidley-King. They chatted for over an hour, and when Sonia heard that Meg had some experience in clerical work, she immediately arranged a meeting. Rather in awe of the formidable Sonia, Meg approached the meeting with some trepidation, but was quickly put at ease and became hooked on Sonia's idea. She then had a key role in drawing up the constitution for the new organisation.

Meg was born in Rockhampton. After leaving school she worked for a time in the Public Trustee's office before joining the WAAF,

became a decoder (shades of Bletchley Park!) and after the war she went to Sydney University under the Post-war Reconstruction Training Scheme. She soon married, and with her teacher husband and young family, lived in London for several years. When the children were at school, she gained varied experience in temporary work. Back in Australia, she was appointed Lab Assistant at Cheltenham Girls' High School. She developed an interest in the Trade Union Movement, and was a delegate to various conferences. Meg has a number of interests including theatre, oil and water colour painting, painting on porcelain ...and studying Latin! And of course her family, which includes three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter aged ten. Meg herself is an active

90-year-old, much appreciated at the Warehouse for her considerable contribution in the office on Fridays, for her beautifully crocheted wraps, and for a great sense of humour. She is also a rare source of stories from WWL's past. (Did you know, for example, that in the early days wraps were tied up with stockings?)



LORRAINE DOWNEY, a member of the WWL Committee, volunteers at the Warehouse on Wednesdays for what could almost be seen as a busman's holiday. Her 'day job' is running the quilt shop Patchwork Plus at Miranda, which she established twenty-seven years ago. She gives classes in patchwork and quilting there, and travels to a number of places in and around Sydney to attend weekend quilting events. Patchwork Plus acts as a Drop Off Depot (DOD) for Wrap with Love. Lorraine spent her early childhood in Ulladulla and her final school years in Sydney, then went on to secretarial college. At the age of nineteen she

joined the Public Service and bravely set out for Papua New Guinea on a two year contract. It was there that she met her future husband, a fellow public servant, also from Sydney. Although she started knitting and crocheting in her early teens, Lorraine's particular love these days is patchwork. She became interested in WWL when she attended the second ABC Knit-in and was inspired by the enthusiasm of Angela Catterns. Since coming to the Warehouse she has contributed to all the regular tasks. She is now involved mostly in packing, and enjoys meeting wrappers making deliveries to the front desk. Other interests include her garden and her dogs, and once a month she meets up with

eight friends at Yowie Yarners, enjoying knitting squares and solving the world's problems.

*Patchwork Plus, 81/7-15 Jackson Avenue Miranda 2228
Phone 9540 2786*



LAYOUT & PHOTOGRAPHY Jennifer Gordon (Wednesday Warehouse Volunteer)
EDITOR Mary Madgwick (Friday Warehouse Volunteer)

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, MARCH 2016

2015 was a busy and enjoyable year with the arrival of beautiful and creative wraps from all knitting groups. By November 2015, 32,000 wraps and 50,000+ squares had come in, which does not include Wraps that had been given directly by knitting groups to the cold needy in their local areas (homeless, asylum seekers, refugees, at risk teenagers, shelters).

Our main difficulty as always is the transport overseas by various Aid Agencies. World Vision has been a terrific client and other groups have taken orders as well – but smaller, as transport overseas is costly and requires a lot of manpower. So transport and delivery overseas is a big problem – for them and for us!

We now have over 40 volunteers who come and help at the warehouse – some weekly, some fortnightly and others monthly – but it is a friendly and happy group of people (male and female) working together harmoniously.

Thanks to our neighbours at Alexandria, Edition Habit Press and Media Movers, for opening the warehouse for deliveries and storage.

Also to Guardian Funerals for being drop-off depots and to Chris Fewtrell (with Phil Pryor as support), for his constant travelling to transport depots for pick-ups. Transport companies from all over Australia have been a great help to us delivering blankets to their depots or the warehouse free of cost.

I would like to thank Lorraine Sutton who has supervised the warehouse orders and packing, and the volunteers who look after the

computers, correspondence, accounting etc in the office.

We came back to the warehouse the first week in February and the wraps have been delivered non-stop since. Some probably not delivered before closing time in November and others knitted over Christmas.

Five weeks back at the warehouse and we have fulfilled orders for: World Vision 2,000, Mission Without Borders (Eastern Block) 1,000, Walter Bock (Burwood Rotary Club) for Mindanao in the Philippines 600, Fiji 1,500.

Unfortunately Media Movers, our helpful neighbours, moved out during February 2016 and we have lost friends and additional storage space.

One of our long-term volunteers, Joan Secker, who came down each week from the Blue Mountains, her car always packed with wraps, has decided to retire from the trip and from Wrap with Love on a regular basis. Joan was a great supporter and a wonderful office worker looking after banking, mail and correspondence.

That's all for now. Onward! Thank you!

Jayne Goodes

Coordinator - Wrap with Love



WRAP WITH LOVE COMMITTEE - 2016

Chair: Jayne Goodes
Treasurer & Public Officer: Roy Rigotti
Secretary: Patty Bruniges

Committee Members:

Lorraine Sutton, Alida Gray,
Lorraine Downey, Jennifer Gordon,
Poppy Becher, Alex Gonzales, Mary Madgwick

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...

DATES FOR THE YEAR

Last date for deliveries

to the Warehouse: Wednesday 23rd November 2016

Christmas Break:

Close Friday 9th December 2016

Reopen Wednesday 1st February 2017

Next Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2017

SPECIAL THANKS

- To the **Guardian Funerals Group** who provide drop-off facilities for knitters, and transfer goods to our warehouse.
- To the **Rotary Clubs** who organise the transfer of goods to the warehouse and to other locations around Sydney from the Knit-in venues throughout NSW.
- To **Chris Fewtrell** who has been spending many hours a week in his car, collecting wraps from Sydney locations far and wide.
- To **Habit Edition Press** and **Media Movers**, our neighbours in Alexandria, who have assisted by opening the warehouse for deliveries and with storage.
- To the many **transport companies** who provide assistance. (There are too many to acknowledge individually, but their input is essential to us).

KNIT INS 2016

Knit Ins took place far and wide last year, and produced large numbers of wraps and squares.

They also succeeded in providing a very enjoyable event for our regular volunteers, and recruited some new pairs of hands to help increase our output.

If you're planning a Knit In this year, please let us know details of where and when, and we'll help with some on-line publicity.

If you have any bright ideas for activities on the day such as games or competitions, please share those too. And don't forget to let us know how it all goes. **Photos too, please.**

USING THE TECHNOLOGY ...

We have a new **Website**: www.wrapwithlove.org

We now have a **Facebook** page: [Facebook.com/Wrap With Love Inc](https://www.facebook.com/Wrap-With-Love-Inc)
(You don't need to have your own Facebook page to sign in to ours).

Our **Email** address is unchanged: wwl@pacific.net.au

Given recent increases in postage costs, the more we can communicate with you on line, the better.
If you have an email address, please make sure that we have it on file.

While we still distribute this Annual Bulletin by post, our quarterly newsletter is on email only.
You can use email to request labels, to advise us of deliveries and to provide information about your Knit Ins.

And don't forget we are always pleased to receive news items for the Bulletin.

DELIVERIES TO THE ALEXANDRIA WAREHOUSE

This year major roadworks are being undertaken in Huntley Street Alexandria.
From now till the end of the year traffic in Huntley Street will travel one-way only, from West to East, i.e., from the roundabout on Euston Road/McEvoy Street to Bourke Road. Maddox Street which is parallel with Huntley Street will remain two-way.

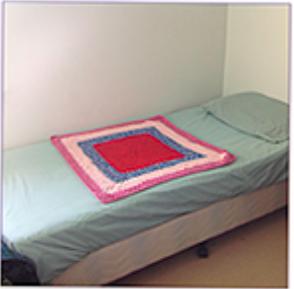
PROVIDING WRAPS DIRECTLY TO RECIPIENTS

Most of our wraps are processed through our Alexandria warehouse. There are a few cases where knitting groups deliver their wraps directly to the recipients. If you do this, please send us details of when, where and the numbers so we can keep an accurate record of WWL's annual output.

VALE

Joan Wearne
Kath Goodrich
Judith Keller
Jenny Cash
David Buick
Emanuel Aroney

HOW YOU CAN HELP US ...



Now please, dear friends, bear this in mind,
if you could be so very kind ...

Wrap size is not a random thing.
Our founder, Sonia Gidley-King,
Found seven down and four across
In ten-inch* squares meant you could toss
One on a bed, or - what a boon! -
Wear it as a snug cocoon.

Nothing is wasted here: we take
The oddest shapes and sizes, make
Them into what we need, and lo!
Another wrap is set to go.
But this takes time when we could be
More usefully employed, you see.

While nothing's wasted, if you could
Knit ten inch* squares it would be good:
No rectangles, no knots mid-row,
No trailing ends for us to sew
Would certainly increase the speed
Of getting wraps to those in need.

If your knitting's loose, you might
Need smaller needles: if too tight,
Try bigger ones. And please ensure
You stick to the loose-cast-off law.

But more than anything, please know
That every wrap you knit and sew
Is loved and valued in our race
To make the world a warmer place.

*25cm x 25cm

© Helen Meikle

THE YARN LINE

WWL volunteers in Orange meet at the Orange City Library. Known as the Orange Purlers, the volunteers receive completed wraps and squares from many towns in the Central West including Oberon, Molong, Parkers, Cowra, Grenfell, Eugowra and Condobolin. Rotary looks after transport of completed wraps to Sydney.

Several times each year a neatly packed postage box arrives at the warehouse from Holland. Lydia Gooijer lives in Amsterdam, where she regularly knits beautiful striped squares for WWL. We combine Lydia's squares with the lovely single-colour squares knitted by clients of Regal Health in Sydney. Another multi-cultural effort for WWL.

Janette Dive has been a volunteer with WWL for 20 years. When she started there were only three in the Ryde group. Now there are dozens who meet in four local libraries, Gladesville, West Ryde, Eastwood and North Ryde. There is also a group at Epping Library. Janette leapt into action when the call went out for victims of the devastating earthquake in Nepal last year. Ryde contributed 50 wraps which Janette delivered to Alexandria.



Inge Koettig is a great sewer-upper at age 90.



Kay Lee sews and knits at Viceroy Clubhouse on Thursday mornings, and her four-year-old god-daughter gives her a hand sewing squares together.



Wrappers at Glen Innes Town Library (photo courtesy of the Glen Innes Examiner)



Jessica Brown at Life Changing Experiences says that these girls absolutely loved their Wraps.



Mabel Crosby who is 106 years old, knits us a square every day! Her niece, Elaine Bagshaw is a long-term volunteer at the warehouse. Elaine tells us that Mabel does not use a stick. Her family insisted that she stop driving at 99, but she didn't stop mowing the lawn until she turned 100. At 105 she went on a cruise. Congratulations, Mabel!

A Wrap group is thriving in Benalla, Victoria. Faith Hicks recently clocked up 20 years with us, and Muriel Plowman 15 years. Muriel began in Glenrowan and Faith in Shepparton and since starting the group at Benalla they've sent us over 900 wraps. Faith keeps photos of all their wraps in albums, a great source of ideas and inspiration for others.



Patty Miller tells us that the Young group had a very successful Wool Drive in July, receiving donations of over 200 balls of yarn and creating a lot of interest in the community. Squares knitted in Young are transported to Cootamundra where they are sewn into wraps, then on to Wagga for transport to Sydney. Not the end of their journey, of course!
(photo courtesy of The Young Witness)

Bathurst coordinator Marcia Bonham let us know that she arranged a display of finished wraps at the City Community Club before sending them to Sydney. This was for the many local people who make squares, but previously wouldn't have seen the completed wrap.

Five-year-old James was having a look at the 2015 Bulletin. 'Nanna,' he asked, 'is the lady who gives the blankets to those poor people a bit like Santa?'

A metre wide
length almost double,
bright rugs of coloured squares
hand knitted, hand sewn
for lives disrupted by
natural disasters, human
conflicts,
the comfort of distant hands
enfolds small children,
covers them in sleep
a mother smiles,
a brief respite
enclosed in a rainbow.

© Diana Pearce

WRAPS AROUND THE WORLD

Delivering aid to needy countries, some experiencing extreme poverty or other natural disasters, some involved in war, many lacking a strong organisational infrastructure, is a huge challenge, and costs are often prohibitive. Without our network of non-government aid organisations (NGOs) and other concerned groups and individuals, Wrap with Love would not be able to function. We are indebted to them all, and are constantly on the lookout for others who can help with delivery overseas.

DISTRIBUTION OF WRAPS 2015

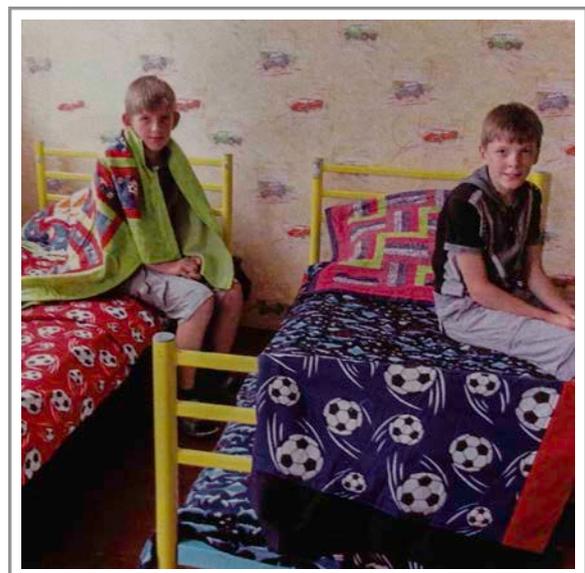
Australia	3,007	Nepal	680
ADRA (Pacific)	1,010	Philippines	1,111
Armenia	4,083	Sierra Leone	200
Cambodia	219	Solomon Islands	45
Congo	422	Syria	14
East Timor	35	Uganda	38
Kiribati	180	Uruguay	340
Mission Without Borders (Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine)	3,013	Vanuatu	340
		World Mission	7134
		World Vision	10123
		ANNUAL TOTAL	31,994

TOTAL NUMBER OF WRAPS

DISPATCHED SINCE 1992 414,065

MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

The amount and quality of the items we have shipped to Eastern Europe from Australia this past year has brought relief to so many families and children. Imagine the sense of relief for parents who previously have despaired at their helplessness in being unable to provide for their children.



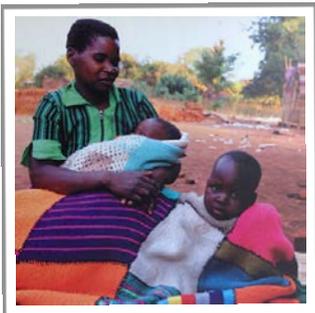
You can see from our photos the sheer joy on the faces of children in the Homes ... receiving warm clothing and blankets.

WORLD VISION



Peter is six years old and lives in the Bukaye village, 180km east of Kampala in Uganda. Peter used to sleep with an old cloth which had holes in it, which left him feeling cold at night and ultimately more vulnerable to illness and disease. Through the significant support from Wrap with Love, Peter is one

of 100 children from families in this village and surrounding areas who received a knitted blanket during 2015. Peter stated 'I am so happy for the blanket. The new blanket is warm at night. I also like it because of its coloured squares.'



For the Chitundu community in Malawi, cold and rain are two leading causes of illness, with children in the region at serious risk of hypothermia, asthma and other ailments during the winter months. Here Elsie receives blankets to keep her children warm.

Perhaps the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu best describe how Wrap with Love volunteers are bringing real, lasting change to children and families facing great hardship:

'Do your little bits of good where you are, and it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.'

THE ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA)



FROM JUDITH WHITE OAM (Wednesday Volunteer)

On Wednesday 24th February I had the privilege of representing Wrap with Love at a thank you lunch for the volunteers helping ADRA pack Containers. On the day they were packing a container for the Solomon Islands. I watched them pack 10 bags of Wraps, along with linen, chairs and even a piano!!!! THE SHED was a hive of activity before lunch. During lunch there were many speeches thanking various people including Wrap with Love.

A few people at the lunch were unaware of WWL so I gave a short speech about us. They were very impressed. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to represent such a wonderful organisation. I have seen it work when I have given Wraps out in Nepal. The people just love them and do treasure the Wraps. Thank you.



FIJI

We were able to respond quickly to appeals from Fiji following their devastating cyclone early in March sending in total 1,500 wraps.

PHILIPPINES

We are again indebted to Walter Bock of Burwood Rotary for arranging the distribution of wraps to Mindanao.

CAMBODIA

from Jenny Knight

Sometime around August Wrap with Love gave us 200 blankets for the work we do in Cambodia. My family and I have just returned from distributing them (along with 2 tonnes of resources we sent across by container late last year).

... On behalf of the 200 Cambodian families who benefited from your generosity and beautiful work THANK YOU ... or as they say in ***Kbmer Arkun!***

Cambodia Care Phnom Penh

CC works in the slum areas of Phnom Penh where families live in very flimsy shanties. We distributed 80 blankets to young mothers with babies. The wet season begins shortly and their poor housing provides little shelter from the rain and cooler weather.

XP Ministry, Phnom Penh

This agency works with young women coming out of the sex trade industry (which is why we weren't allowed to photograph their faces). These women are now learning to sew beautiful silk handbags and reclaim their lives (and self-esteem) after years of sexual and physical abuse. We distributed 20 wraps to this Agency.



Developmental Disabilities, Pursat

We distributed 85 blankets to families with a disabled child in the rural area of Pursat

Women's Retreat, Phnom Penh

We ran a retreat for fifteen women who head up agencies in Phnom Penh who work with extremely disadvantaged and abused babies, children and teenagers. These women give so much of themselves and seldom take time out to recharge and refresh. They were absolutely thrilled to receive a hand-knitted blanket. Most used to knit or crochet before moving to the tropics so they really appreciated the work that went into their rugs. They sent HUGE thanks!

