

**WARM BLANKETS FOR EVERYONE**

**Latest News & Updates**

**DEC 2022**



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| **OPENING ADDRESS**  ﻿**Hello & Merry Christmas to all Warm Blankets volunteers**,  2022 has been an exciting, learning and growing year at Warm Blankets.  Following the multiple resignations from the board just prior to last Christmas, I stressed that I would not be able to continue with the work of WBFE.  Thanks to Phil Skinner, my mentor, my support, who helped me transition from a partnership, to working with a fully functioning board. His knowledge, wisdom and experience so appreciated.  In the early days of 2022, Di Ebert stepped up to the role of distribution manager. Di had been trained by Tonee in the running of the role, however, Di has put her own stamp on it. Her husband, sidekick Dave, is always there to help pack, distribute, and pick up.  Thanks must go to the board members, who have joined the team at various stages during the year. I do believe that this is a positive team, with the same visions for the future of WBFE.  I must thank my husband, Paul for his physical, and emotional support. The WBFE handyman is ‘always there’.  The actual workshop is efficiently organized. Thanks heaps to the volunteers who now know exactly what jobs need to be done and are more than happy to do them. The volunteers are all focused on the common goal, supplying warm blankets within our community.  The opportunity to store the fleece and market equipment at the Rotary Storage shed at Bennetts Green has been a bonus.  Media Outreach – In May June 2022, Megan Chambers of Olive PR, undertook some Pro Bono press releases for WBFE. There were several media outreaches. ‘Warm Blankets For Everyone’ is now more widely known within the Newcastle area.  Grants & Fundraising – 2022 has seen a huge increase in funds. Several small grants plus a $26,000 from the N.S.Wales Social Support Fund has improved our working capital to a healthy balance. We have been able to purchase a large amount of polar fleece. Fund raising, has been exciting and successful. General fundraising reports from bar-b-q’s, High Tea and Volunteers Afternoon tea have been tabled by Rebecca.  There are many volunteers sewing at home, collecting fabric and returning with toppers or completed blankets, all prepared for 2023 outreach.  Guest Speaking engagements have been undertaken with positive outreach. Our audiences are ‘blown away’ by the beautiful blankets we present as well as the whole ‘mission statement’ of Warm Blankets for Everyone.  On that positive note, the year started with me in ‘panic mode’. I am now so excited to be chair of the board, and part of a great team achieving extraordinary things.  The board of WBFE is now stable, focused, and keen to steer the charity through the upcoming fourth year. Thank you everyone. Check out our website …..wbfe.org  Sue Bardsley  Co-founder/Chairman  Warm Blankets For Everyone |
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| **FUNDRAISING REPORT (Rebecca Wett)**  **WARNERS BAY TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKETS**  Were held on the 29th November at the Warners Bay foreshore from 3 pm to 8 pm.  Overall, I feel that we did really well. We were the only stall selling Christmas goods. Also, we need to take into consideration the state of the economy. That is, the high interest rates, high inflation and the cost of living, people were looking for a bargain.  The Pre-sale of goods at Laverty, U3A sewing and the WBFE workshop raised about half as much money as the money that was taken at the markets.  The Raffle sold reasonably well with help from Laverty and the WBFE volunteers.  We hope to sell some more Raffle tickets at the Volunteers Christmas lunch. The Raffle is to be drawn at the WBFE Christmas lunch on the 16th of December 2022.  The grand total for all the above fundraising events was $2,326.  I would to thank all those who made goods for us to sell at the markets.  Also, I would like to thanks all those volunteers that helped us on the day.  That is, those that;   * transported our goods and equipment to site and back to the workshop, * set up our stall and later packed it away, * arranged our goods for display, * manned the stall, * took cash payments, * arranged EFTOS payments.   ***They did a great job.***  **A big Thank You to;**  **Carolyn Clausen, Chris Gill, Christine Kable, Danuta Champness, Helen Clarke, Judy and Graham Quintal, Julie Farquhar, Julie Fenwich, Kay Phillips, Kerry Phillips, Lauice Remington, Louise Frankiewicz, Roberta Hodgson, Sandra Lang, Keith and Victor**  **And the others that made goods for us.**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | C:\Users\gunte\Desktop\Markets\IMG_3647.JPG | C:\Users\gunte\Desktop\Markets\IMG_3639.JPG |  | | Chris looking after the raffle tickets, Kerry waiting to help customers and Julie taking payments from the customer | Kerry, Julie and Lauice are ready to welcome our customers. | Helen paying for some items with Gunter taking her payment. |   **OUR NEXT FUNDRAISING MEETING**  **Is on Tuesday the 13th DECEMBER 2022 at the WBFE WORKSHOP at 11 am.**  I would like to invite all volunteers, who would like to help with our fundraising, to come along to our next fundraising meeting.  We are looking for help with:   * Developing new fundraising ideas for 2023. * Participate and help at our fundraising activities. * Sewing and making goods for sale at our markets.   ***All help is welcome.*** |
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| **GUEST SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & WORKSHOP VISITS**  Following all the radio and print media engagements WBFE has become very popular and in high demand. This is very important as it both promotes the excellent work that the Group does and acknowledges the wonderful work done by all the Volunteers.  A reminder to all to see the excellent presentation by Oliver PR that is on the website WBFE.org  **November**   * Sue, Di & Dave presented to Valentine Probus where a number of offers for donations were made. |
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| **NORTHERN TERRITORY REPORT**  Kevin Pond and Ian Livingston from the Belmont Baptist Church take a range of goods to Aboriginal communities in outback NSW and the Northern Territory. In the last 12 months they have packed and delivered some 550 boxes of goods and 340 hygiene packs for women & men in remote communities. Their quest started from packing clothes for the Katherine Christian Aboriginal Convention in the NT and it has grown over time  This is a summary of Kevin’s most recent trip to the Northern Territory where WBFE donations were part of the cargo.  In August this year we started out to visit 5 Communities in the Northern Territory. Onboard we had 180 cartons of clothing & bedding, 160 women & men’s hygiene packs. Our first drop was Tennant Creek to Pastor Michael & his wife. Our second drop was Newcastle Waters to Pastor Raymond & his community. Just after leaving Newcastle Waters we had a major breakdown in the truck forcing us to leave the trailer with Ps Raymond. The truck was then towed 750k’s to Darwin, parts had to be ordered & flown in from Perth. This put us behind in our schedule for 7 days. Once we were back on the road our third drop was Borroloola Community Church. Our fourth drop was at Robinson River & our contact there was a beautiful lady called Patsy Anne. This was the most isolated community that we have visited. They have a population of 180 & they were 150k’s further out from Borroloola on corrugated dirt road which made a very slow trip with our big vehicle. Our 5th & last drop was to Elaine from the Doomadgee Community. Overall we covered 7,200 k’s. Every Community received us well & we’re overwhelmed with the generosity shown. I would like to give a big shout out to you Sue & to everyone from WBFE. Your contributions have been huge blessing to these beautiful people. Each Community wanted to make sure that we said thank you & send you God’s blessing. |
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| **VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK**  **A story from Sharyn Borg, “wool manager” & part of the Friday Group**  As part of the wonderful and friendly Friday group I have learnt to use/coax the coffee machine at WBFE.  A home-made morning tea is always available to accompany our beverage and is devoured and appreciated by all.  Additionally I will be called upon to sort the newly arrived yarn into easily recognised and signed plys (and where possible, like colours) for everyone to use for their WBFE crochet or knitting needs.  Our 'different' yarn had been colour co-ordinated for the knitters (or crocheters) to make the popular and gorgeous boho shawls.  We have managed to sell quite a few of these and they will be for sale at future markets. We have enough to cover our needs atm but will certainly need more for our stocks in the new year.  We have quite a few regular knitters and crochet ladies bringing in their gorgeous creations such as blankets, shawls, fingerless gloves, scarves, adult beanies and baby outfits. Packages of dark coloured blankets, fingerless gloves, beanies and scarves will be put together for the homeless in winter.  Yarn arrives intermittently so please join in to help the needy.  Shas |
| **DISTRIBUTIONS (Di Ebert)**  Well its been another very big year!  We have distributed over 2,200 blankets to those in need. That does not include the many, many, knitted & crocheted beanies, gloves etc as wells as numerous bags of linen and other manchester items that we have received as donations.  Following are the numbers of blankets provided to some of the main charities that benefit from the wonderful work of our volunteers:  **Northern Territory Communities – 250**  **WHO’s – We Help Ourselves Men & Women’s Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Cessnock – 200**  **STRAS Belmont Hospital (Short term residential accommodation service) – 92**  **Hope Street Baptist Church – 40**  **Food not Bombs – 237**  **We Care Connect Wyong – 410**  **Lismore Flood Drive – 120**  **Mum’s Cottage – 200**  **Survivor’s R US – 210**  **Macquarie Life Church – 48**  **Allambi Youth – 38**  **Walk \_ In’s etc - 60**  Thank you everyone involved & have a very Merry Christmas. |
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| **GENERAL**  A reminder to all of the Christmas Closedown period will be from **Friday 16th December 2022 to Wednesday 1st February 2023.**  A call-out to anyone who wants sewing tasks over the close-down period please contact Sue to discuss. Also, in preparation for the cooler months next year we are looking to have a supply of ‘fingerless’ gloves and men’s beanies in dark colours. |