



WARM BLANKETS FOR EVERYONE

Latest News & Updates

APR 2024

THANK YOU !



A very big thank you to the IMB Bank Community Foundation for the Grant of \$4,000 that WBFE received in November last year. This money enabled WBFE to purchase 20 rolls of polar fleece. The 20 rolls will enable approximately 260 wonderful blankets to be produced. This will be a very big help to those in need that are so well supported by WBFE.

The photos show Luke Gibson IMB Bank Community Bank Manager Charlestown /Glendale and WBFE Volunteers with some of the fleece purchased and blanket being made.

OPENING ADDRESS

Greetings Warm Blanketeers,
2024, the start of Year 5 at Warm Blankets For Everyone. Very exciting.

As we start this year, we look at very organized, efficient workshop teams and top sewers at home. Everyone knows now what they are doing, and only too happy to show the ropes to any newcomers. We've picked up a few during the break.

Upon opening the workshop in early February, we have received many donations of fabrics, both from individuals, and from a Cane Furniture business who donated fabulous fabrics. More uniforms arrived from the 16's during the break, and following the article in their magazine. I made a sample topper, from these uniforms, which was circulated to the 16's Board and they then included a photo in their magazine. They were thrilled that we could recycle these superseded uniforms. This sample will be at the workshop for some time for viewing, prior to adding it's polar fleece and moving out for delivery. Also we are making a great number of 'remnant kits'. The Sewing Basket is sending us woollen fabrics and heavier cotton and acrylic ones. This a great help to our blanket production and is keeping costs down.

There have been some changes this year; Di has retired from the Delivery Manager, and Donna Green has taken on this demanding role, like a 'duck to water'. Donna is continuing to organize the delivery drivers, to maintain the excellent service we provide to all our agencies. All going well. Hope you are enjoying more 'me time' Di.

We are sorry to lose Kay from the W.B.F.E. Board, and thank her for her support over the past three years. Rebecca has joined the board as Tuesday representative, and Ellie as Wednesday morning

representative. Thank you ladies for filling these positions. The Board now has a mixture of very talented volunteers, working well, overseeing the administration of Warm Blankets.

All in all, as we move through another year at Warm Blankets, I look back at the incredible growth since our beginnings in 2020, at the onset of Covid.....We have come a long way.....

This would not have been possible, nor continue to be possible, without the great support of all volunteers. Thank you to everyone.

Special thanks go to the fabulous fund raising team, who have some great events planned for 2024.

We at Warm Blankets are like a family, working together, with the one aim of supporting each other, in our mission to help those in need. As a family, we have our 'ups and downs', some hurdles, but mostly great friendships and successes.

I love Warm Blankets, it's volunteers and it's work within the community. Thanks everyone for being part of our wonderful charity.

Sue
Chairperson

Fundraising Report (Rebecca)

WBFE FUNDRAISING REPORT FOR APRIL 2024

It has been a very busy start to the year for our Fundraising Committee. We have completed two events and have a lot of exciting events planned this year.

COMPLETED FUNDRAISING EVENTS

TAFE DINNER:

Was held on Thursday the 28th March. The TAFE only allowed 30 people to attend.

The cost per head was \$50 and the TAFE students provided a delicious 3-course meal. We included a lucky door prize that was donated by Brown Sugar, Warners Bay.

We raised \$600 on the night. A second TAFE meal is to be held later this year. Next time it will be a 3-course lunch meal instead of a dinner. The date is yet to be determined.

MOVIE MATINEE "SINGIN IN THE RAIN":

Was held on Thursday the 4th April. People commented that it was a great movie. The cost was \$25 per person which included a tasty treat box. The food supplied was donated by Woolworths at Belmont. We raised \$1,553 on the day.

We want to thank Kay and Ray Phillips, Sandra and Geoff Lang and Daveen Smyth for getting up early to prepare the food for the tasty treat boxes.

We want to thank Helen Clarke, Danuta Champness and Laurice Remington from our Friday group for manning the venue and selling raffle tickets on the day.

We want to thank 2NUR FM for advertising our event.

A second movie matinee is to be held later this year. The date is yet to be determined.

FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY:

Is to be held on Saturday the 18th May at St Luke's Hall.

There will be Prizes for the best hats and outfits. Also, there are Lucky door prizes and raffle tickets for sale.

A table of Sale items will be set up. Crochet blankets and quilts are to be Auctioned on the day.

It is only 5 weeks until the Mad Hatters Tea Party so get your Hats and Costumes organised for our party. See Shindigs at Lambton for costumes and decorations.

The Flyer with more information about the Party has been sent out, so keep an eye out for it. A copy is below.

LADLE AND CRUST LUNCH - A LUNCH TO REMEMBER:

Julie Farquhar's Wednesday Morning group are holding a lunch on Saturday the 27th of July at St Luke's Hall. There will be games and prizes gallore. More information to follow.

TRIVIA NIGHT:

Is to be held on Saturday the 17th August at St Luke's Hall. This is a "Family Night" and will cost \$10 per person. Food and drinks will be BYO. Coffee and tea will be provided.

There will be a Silent Auction.

COMBINED VOLUNTEERS AFTERNOON TEA AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

The theme for this year's volunteer's tea is Christmas. This will be held on Saturday the 9th November at St Luke's Hall.

It was decided to forgo a formal lunch in favour of a more informal afternoon tea.

MARKETS:

We are planning to have one or two stalls at the Christmas Twilight Market. The market is usually held during the last week of November or the first week of December.

DONATIONS OF FOOD FOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

1. We would like to thank Woolworths at Belmont for their very generous donation of a food hamper to the value of \$250.

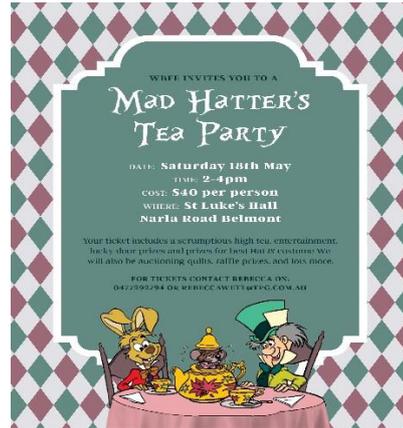
I had come at the right time, because they were doing an Easter donation. Ursula from Woolworths gave me what I asked for plus Easter Bunnies and hot cross buns.



Ursula from Belmont Woolworths with her donation.

2. We would also like to thank Helen Forster and the WOW (Women On Wednesday) group for their generous donation of grocery items for our Fundraising hampers.
3. We would also like to thank all the WBFE volunteers that gave us grocery items for our Fundraising hampers.

Mad Hatter Tea Party Invitation (for anyone who missed the email)



Great Feedback on the Movie Matinee

Good morning Rebecca

I just want to let you know what a fabulous day we all had last Thursday. All the ladies from the Village Swansea are still talking and singing about it. We all agreed it was a great outing from the greetings at the entrance, the tasty treats lunch box to the movie. It seems that we also cleaned up the raffle prizes 😊.

Thank you to you and your wonderful team of helpers. Hope we helped raise a bit of extra funding for WBFE.
Cathie

Volunteer Feedback

Hi Everyone,

My name is Laurice Remington, I started at Warm Blankets two years ago. I go on Friday mornings and do mostly cutting. We all have a great time together and produce many lovely products, blankets, scarves, beanies and gloves made at home as well as the warm blankets in the work room.

I first met Sue when we were at Play Group with our pre schoolers at St Lukes. Our children are now in their 50s. Meeting again after all these years was wonderful.

Great company keeps life moving along.

Blankets does that for many of us and the production we create helps many more.

Laurice

WBFE FACEBOOK LAUNCHING SOON!

In a further effort to promote Warm Blankets For Everyone, a Facebook page will be launching shortly. This page is aimed at promoting a sense of community and will be used to provide volunteers, friends and partners with information about events and activities as well as posting positive achievements. If anyone has any photos highlighting your time with WBFE feel free to send into wbfef2020@gmail.com with the subject FB PHOTO. Please keep an eye for the page, we will be sending an email when it is officially launched.

A very big thank you to Ellie Farquhar for getting the arranged for us.

We will be seeking assistance from volunteers to be the Facebook page administrators. More on this once the page is up and running.

Distributions (Donna)

Hello!

Wow, has it been a whirlwind couple of months at WBFEE!

I have been busy learning the ropes of the "day-to-day" running of the workshop and trying to do lots of the deliveries to familiarise myself with the Charities we support and meeting the people on the other end of the telephone, email and in person.

I must thank Di and Dave Ebert for their continued support and to all the volunteers I come across on my daily attendance at the workshop. Thank you, for helping me transition into this position. Also, to the team of delivery drivers who whenever I have put the email out for help they have answered favourably and promptly.

Thank you all so much.

To the end of March, we have distributed a total of 638 Blankets. The breakdown is as follows:

	WBFEE	Woollen	Crochet / Knitted
February	89	30	54
March	362	40	63
Total	451	70	117

We have also delivered 70 Beanies, 1 child's jumper, 15 scarves and 5 boxes of socks. We have passed on approximately 15 Woollen 2nd hand blankets/quilts to NT as well as sheets, towels and toiletries (sanitary items). We have supported other businesses with our excess or unsuitable fabric by making deliveries to The Makers Place. We have also given Pin Cushions, Seat Belt Covers, Microwave Bowl covers and Peg Bags to the CWA. We received goods from Creating for Charity, Quirky Quilters, U3A and WOW. We are very appreciative of all donations we receive.

Thank you also goes to Sue Bardsley for maintaining her enthusiasm for such a great charity. Her hard work and dedication is to be commended.

Well done!

Donna Green, Distribution Coordination, WBFEE

General

There is a need to update our Volunteer records.

Currently we are showing 110 Volunteers. The breakdown is 40 Workshop based, 35 Home based Sewers, 26 Home based knitters / crocheters and 9 drivers.

Workshop Team Leaders are able to confirm the currency of team members however we are not able to do the same for home-based volunteers.

We are aware that some people are no longer being involved with WBFEE and our records need to be updated. Rather than getting new Volunteer Forms completed it has been decided that an email will be sent to each home-based volunteer asking you to confirm that:

1. You are currently active with WBFEE blanket production.
2. You are no longer active with WBFEE and would like to be removed from the Volunteer list.
3. You are not actively involved in blanket production but wish to continue to receive WBFEE communications.

Thank you

Dave

Support for WBFE from Belmont 16's

This is a photo of a fantastic blanket produced from the Belmont 16's uniforms that were donated to us rather than being discarded. More on this is in the 16's Newsletter article below.

The blanket topper was made from smaller off cuts, mainly from the sleeves. Larger pieces will be used in creating other topper designs. It is estimated that the 16's donation will produce approximately 100 blanket toppers.

The Wednesday Morning Team were delighted to add to this blanket by creating sides and finishing with a backing. A small sailing motif was added as we thought it was a great tribute to the Belmont 16ft Sailing Club acknowledging their kind donation. The motif is highlighted.

Thank you to Jill and the Wednesday Team for your great work.

This wonderful blanket will be auctioned at the upcoming Mad Hatters Tea Party.



This is the article the Sue referred to in her Opening. It was placed in a recent Belmont 16's Newsletter highlighting the support from WBFE when the 16's changed their uniforms. Our support was very much appreciated.

COMMUNITY



A Sustainable Approach

Blankets of Warmth from upcycling

Faced with hundreds of soon-to-be-redundant uniforms sporting an old logo, our administration team embarked on an innovative journey towards sustainability. We thought beyond convention, reaching out to a familiar organisation we had supported before and fostering a sustainable mindset to repurpose these uniforms.

Rather than discarding or donating them with uncertainty of how they would be distributed, we partnered with the local charity, Warm Blankets For Everyone (WBFE), to breathe new life into them. The result? "blanket toppers" ingeniously crafted from these uniforms, paired with polar fleece, now providing comfort to those in need within our community.

Our Club orchestrated the effort by donating hundreds of uniform items from our current inventory stock. Additionally, we rallied our 180+ team members to bring back any uniforms they had at home, ensuring no piece went to waste.

Sue Bardsley, the Chairperson/Workshop Manager of WBFE, expressed her heartfelt gratitude for our support. She emphasised

the invaluable role the superseded uniforms from Belmont 16s Sailing Club played in creating "male blankets," addressing a specific need within their organisation.

WBFE, a not-for-profit charity that emerged during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, has since become a symbol of hope and comfort. With a dedicated team of 110 volunteers, WBFE gathers excess blankets, crocheted and knitted blankets, and even manufactures its own blankets using fabric backed with polar fleece. However, the cost of polar fleece is approximately \$18 per blanket.

In our quest for sustainability, we've encountered a pressing need. Warm Blankets For Everyone urgently seeks high-quality blankets, preferably wool or knitted blankets reminiscent of the ones used before doonas became popular. We invite you to check your linen cupboards and consider donating. Every blanket counts in providing warmth and comfort to those who need it most.

For donations, please contact Founder Sue Bardsley at 0408242921.

Urgent blanket donations needed! Call 0408242921

An Invitation from Belmont 16's

WBFE has been asked by the Belmont 16's to make people aware of an upcoming event they are holding for Domestic Violence Awareness Month Friday 10 May.

The 16's are lucky enough to have Domestic Violence Advocate Rosie Batty A.O, who's 11year old son Luke, was killed in by his father at his cricket practice 10 years ago. She will be talking about her hope after this horrible event

Harbouring Hope Luncheon

Join us for a 2-course lunch to raise funds for Domestic Violence with Guest Speaker Rosie Batty & Co-Host Steph De Sousa

\$1,500 for table of 10 or \$159pp + \$5

"1 in 6 women in Australia have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous partner since the age of 15"

Together, we can make a difference.

"Domestic violence is a crime against women. It is not just a crime against the individual woman, it is a crime against the community. It is a crime against the children of the woman. It is a crime against the nation."

Together, we can make a difference.