



WARM BLANKETS FOR EVERYONE

Latest News & Updates

DEC 2025



OPENING ADDRESS

Hello Warm Blanketeers,

What a wonderful community of Warm Blanket volunteers we have. Over 50 volunteers attended the recent 'Thank You' luncheon, at which Dave Ebert, deputy chairperson, gave an excellent power point presentation of our achievements over the past twelve months. It is so exciting to realise what we have achieved over the five years of operation. With confidence we can move forward into Year 6, fully prepared to serve our communities supporting those doing it tough.

Warm Blankets is always growing through outreach and networking. Donations of fabrics and fleece continue to arrive at the workshop. Grants and fundraising provide funds to purchase the excellent polar fleece used on the backing of our blankets. This is purchased in bulk from Dean Textiles in Melbourne. There is a wide selection of colours allowing us to produce blankets for all needs from children, women in refuges, men in rehabilitation and people who are homeless.

I would like to express my thanks to all the volunteers who have stepped up to take on some of my 'Workshop Manager' roles. I will be stepping back from 24/7 at the workshop in 2026 and have already put this into effect with positive success. What will I do with all my spare time? I will still oversee the workshop and liaise with the sub-managers.

A random idea by two people five years ago, Warm Blankets For Everyone has grown into a positive charity successfully supporting those in need. I love the work of Warm Blankets and the numerous people I have met over the past five years. I never cease to be amazed at the wonderful collection of worthwhile talents. So many friendships have and continue to be formed. This is particularly important to all as we navigate our busy lives of family, friends, health and aging.

Continue to care for each other.

Sue Bardsley
Chairperson, Workshop Manager
Warm Blankets For Everyone

DISTRIBUTIONS (Di Ebert)

Well, it's been another very big year for the Distribution Team!

Since 1 February this year we have supplied **3,092 blankets**.

The number is made up of 2,432 fleece backed blankets, 582 crochet / knitted blankets and 81 woollen blankets. I want to make a big call out and thank you to our dear friends at Quirky Quilters who continue to support us. They have given us 226 quilts and 30 crochet rugs this year. Their ongoing support is very much appreciated.

In addition to the blankets we have provided 512 Beanies, 133 Gloves & 336 Scarfs. We were also able to deliver 50 Care Packs donated by the Lake Macquarie are Woollies stores.

Teams have “pinned” some 2,179 blankets in workshop sessions this year using 101 rolls of fleece. That is over 2 kilometres of fleece. AMAZING! This is a magnificent effort for all those involved. Well done teams!!

Following are the numbers of blankets provided to some of the main Organisations that benefit from the wonderful work of our volunteers:

Organisation	Total Blankets
Food not Bombs	339
STRAS Belmont Hospital	120
WCC Wyong	579
WCC Thornton	382
Christ Church Cathedral	202
Macquarie Life Church	44
Zara’s House	261
Northern Territory	65
Eastlakes Family Support	125
Hope St Baptist Care	65
NourishED Aust	167
St Vincent de Paul	197
Mosaic Multicultural	138

Please note that a regular recipient of our blankets, Mum’s Cottage, was undergoing major renovations so did not take blankets this year but I’m sure they will be back on the list next year.

I want to thank the wonderful delivery drivers (Margaret, Paul, Pete, Graham, John & Laraine) who continue to give so readily of their time to make sure the deliveries are done. You are all an integral part of Warm Blankets and very much at the coal face of our organisation. Without you we would not achieve all that we do.

Thank you everyone & have a very Merry Christmas and a well-deserved break!

Di.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

WBFE FUNDRAISING REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2025

This year’s fundraising events have raised over \$18,500. This is a fantastic result.

The Events were:

- High Tea \$4,200
- Mother’s Day Raffle \$1,670
- Pies, Peas & Poetry \$4,020
- Spring Carnival \$3,840
- Mt Hutton Woolworths Stalls \$3,870
- Stroud Markets \$420
- Volunteers Luncheon \$500

A very big call out to all those people involved in the various events this year. There are too many individuals to name but there are the fundraising committee, the teams who have run events, those who make the various merchandise that we sell, those that cook, that set up and clean up and those that sell items at the events and stalls. Without you all, WBFE would not be able to continue to fund its operations and provide the wonderful blankets for those less fortunate in the community.

Thank you also the those who come to our events and help us with the success we have.

The Fundraising Team will be meeting at the beginning of next year to organise our Fundraising events for 2026. **The first event that will be a “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” in late March ...More information will be sent out early next year so keep an eye out!**

I would like to thank the following businesses, who supported us this year with their donations.

Baker's Delight at Warners Bay, **Wine Selectors** in Newcastle, **Newcastle Permanent MasterCard** (thanks to Anita Yarrow). **Belmont 16s** at Belmont. **Bunnings** at Bennett Green. **Seaview Malaysian restaurant** at Redhead. **Woolworths** at Belmont and Mt Hutton. **Brown Sugar restaurant** at Warners Bay. **Coles** at Mt Hutton and Belmont, **Zenn Beauty** at Belmont.

I also want to thank **St Lukes Uniting Church Belmont** for donating the use of their hall for our functions. It is such a wonderful facility. And last but most certainly not least a very big thank you to Karen Person who provides the beautiful decorations and the “ high tea” supplies that make all our events so spectacular and so successful.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas with your Family and friends. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and dedication to the Fundraising Team.

Here are some photos taken of the recent Mt Hutton Woolworths Markets and the Volunteers Luncheon.

WOOLWORTHS MARKET STALL



Our Volunteer team



Jams, Relish & other delights



Merchandise for sale

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON



Fantastic Food Selection



Presentation from Ann Manning



Merchandise for Sale



Our Volunteer Luncheon Prize Winners



Stroud Markets

A very big thank you to Melissa McMillian from Paterson who kindly volunteered to take some WBFE stock to the Stroud Brick and Rolling Pin Throwing Competition. Melissa is the Co-Ordinator of the Quilt Show at the Event and was able to sell some of our items as part of the show. This event is normally held in July each year but was postponed this year due to floods.

Melissa is the daughter-in-law of Maree Blanch, a WBFE Volunteer. Melissa raised \$420 for WBFE.

Thanks again Melissa.

TEAM LEADER REPORTS

Tuesday (Rebecca Wett)

The last Newsletter of the year, and what a year it has been for all of us. One of our Tuesday ladies has had to reluctantly "retire" due to health problems. We shall miss Rosalie's company and her ever present smile. Meanwhile, the rest of us have been busy, doing what we do best on a Tuesday morning: making blankets. (As well as solving the problems of the world!) That may be Rebecca and Sandra pinning tops, Kay and Anne turning and top stitching blankets, or Carolyn turning and top stitching, as well as joining fleece to size, all in the main room. Jenny hangs out in "her" room with the "Airlocker", and Helen and Daveen work on making tops fit to the correct size in the fabric room. Rosalie was our chief label sewer on knitted and crocheted blankets. Some of these crocheted blankets were made by Sandra, who also takes knitted squares home to join together into blankets. But wait. That's not all the Tuesday morning ladies do. We are all committed (in the nicest possible way) to helping our Team leader Rebecca's fundraising efforts. We sew, knit and crochet, and make jams, relishes and pickles, amongst other things, to sell on the sale tables at our fundraising Lunches and High Teas. Additionally, several of our ladies contribute towards the delicious foods that we eat at these events. And what would these fundraisers be without Daveen's Diabolical quizzes!

WBFE has been running a stall at Mt Hutton since June, organised by Rebecca, and all our team have been involved in assisting her in this productive venture. She is an absolute dynamo and inspires us all.

On behalf of Rebecca, Carolyn, Kay, Anne, Sandra, Daveen, Helen, Jenny, and now retired Rosalie, we wish all our wonderful volunteers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Daveen for the Tuesday Team (Rebecca made me do this!)

Wednesday AM (Julie Farquhar)

The Wednesday morning team have had such a different year. We have gone to many places around the world including Japan the UK Ireland Taipei as well as travelled through Australia. It has been a shared experience and the common theme to most of our travels is the different tapestries, needlework and embroidery that we find in these places. On Wednesday we chat about these finds and share our lives while looking at the beautiful toppers that have been put together in preparation for blankets. As a team we helped raise funds for WBFE and have tried to maintain a high standard with the work that we produce. It is important to give our clients some pride back. Christine, Judy, Sue, Margaret S, Jill, Julie, Eleanor and Margaret Y (Ruby and Bear) wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and productive New Year.

Wednesday PM (Christine Gill)

Wednesday afternoon group have been busy at the workshop performing each of our separate tasks that come together to make lots of blankets for those in need...all the time we are chatting away and sharing each other's company. Looking forward to getting together again after the end of year break.

Hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Chris

Thursday (Roberta Hodgson)

Thursday group running very well. Everyone works hard and it is a joy to go there. We have a wonderful ironing lady Cathy; Julie is a whiz at constructing pieces into full size quilts. Ruth, Chez, Glenys and I regularly use the 2 rooms to pin each week not only fleece but remnant pieces and Kerrie who has had to deal with losing both parents comes when she can and sews. Dot is flexible, pins when needed and unpicks items when needed. Sue as always organises us so we know what tasks she wants done and is always available to answer questions and helps each one of us share personal concerns which we do over afternoon tea. A new lady Beryl is having treatment for cancer and hopes to re-join us in the New Year. It is a very supportive group working not only for those in need but we are there for each other.

I love Thursdays. Roberta

Friday (Helen Clarke)

Well, here we are again at the end of another year and may I say a Very Happy Christmas to all our readers. As the year is winding down, we are in the process of trying to get as many blankets finished as we can so that we have a good stock start for 2026. Everyone is kept on their toes and although they may be used to doing a certain job, they are now finding themselves doing something quite different just to get things finished, which is a good thing. We really need to have a good knowledge of all the aspects of the work done so that we can step up when needed.

Our team work very well together but unfortunately; we have lost Danuta from the Group. However, Danuta is not sitting at home twiddling her thumbs, she has taken on a new venture in doing work at a nearby nursing home, which she is finding very rewarding. We all miss her but can also share her joy in her new work.

Helen

Feedback from those who receive our wonderful blankets

Friends with Dignity – Thank you for your wonderful blanket donations and hosting a laundry collection.

Eastlakes Family Support Service -We are blown away by your generosity in giving help to those who are struggling at this time. We appreciate all you have done throughout the year.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Thank you for generous donation to the Swansea Accommodation Facility.

We Care Connect - A very big shoutout to everyone doing their bit to keep those in need warm this winter. Such important compassionate work. Thankyou fore making a real difference in our community.

Mosaic MultiCultural Connections - Every stitch tells someone: your seen, you are supported, and you matter. Our dear friends at WBFEE have been lovingly sewing and donating handcrafted winter blankets for our clients who need them most.

NourishED Aust – Thanks again for supplying us this winter. We appreciate everything you have given us.

Thankyou notes are posted on our Facebook page – Warm Blankets for Everyone.

GENERAL

WBFE Board would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Belmont Baptist Church Property for the ongoing use of their facility for our Workshop rent free. This is very much appreciated.

On Saturday 15 November the WBFE Volunteers Thank You Luncheon was held. It was a wonderful occasion, and I had the honour of thanking all the volunteers (both those present and those unable to attend) for the wonderful work you do. I want to take this opportunity to again thank ALL our wonderful volunteers for your continued support of WBFE. Without our Volunteers WBFE would not be able to achieve what it does in helping those less fortunate people in our community.

Have a well-deserved break and be fully charged to be back in action when we resume on 2 February 2026.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Dave



WBFE Volunteers Christmas Lunch

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to WBFE's successful 2025.

