

## > World Wide Knit in Public Day



A community was born at our event for the World Wide Knit in Public Day 2017, taking knitting out of isolation and creating a public event of connection and contribution. On **Saturday the 10th of June**, we brought together many with a love of knitting who wished to share their passion with others. The excitement was palpable. The clatter of needles, all pervasive. The chatter constant. Some came through Facebook, some from seeing our big sign outside and a few who were passing by on the day. A significant group of women of all ages came from groups such as the Brunswick Brown Owls, The Victorian Knitters Guild and knitters from the Campbell Turner library.



Our ecumenical neighbours from St Ambrose, St Joseph's and Church of Christ also came along and one enthusiast travelled all the way from Frankston! Anchoring the day was the spirit and enthusiasm of our own congregation's passionate knitters who arrived in droves!

Altogether, over 50 people were present including a small minority of men. In the mix were straight out beginners and old hands who had been knitting for decades and everyone in between. For morning tea we enjoyed a generous serve of scones provided by Glenice Cook, Dani Chamberlin, Julie Perrin, Saide Cameron, Ann Soo.

Later, we shared lunch in the main hall with a choice of seven hearty soups, many thanks to our generous congregational cooks! However lunch was quickly spent, as all were eager to return to the task at hand. Knitted squares started to appear and many many more were well on the way. A group located in the west end of the church worked on stitching the squares into warm and beautiful blankets. An exacting and labour intensive task but the results speak for themselves (please see photos). These beautiful items will be given to Knit One Give One (KOGO) for distribution to a number of services nationwide reaching those most in need of warmth this winter. For example KOGO have recently sent a huge parcel of beanies and scarves to Alice Springs. The second non-profit organisation we supported on the day is Wrap With Love that for many years has provided blankets to the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. When the women arrive for their treatment and surgery they are promptly given a blanket to welcome them, demonstrating care and concern through this simple gesture.

Thanks to the team who made all this happen. To Glenice Cook for her amazing hospitality throughout the day, to Julie McKinnon for looking after all the details in the kitchen, serving lunch and making it all look so easy! To Natalie Papworth, Dani Chamberlin and Val Remedios for knitting while on their feet showing warm welcomes, care, tuition on the go and tireless energy along with Graham Lawrence and Peter Blair who covered all tasks apart from knitting! A huge shout out to Saide Cameron for a stunning street sign that stopped people in their cars and grabbed the attention of commuters. Thanks to Ann Lawrence for the seed of an idea and organising the event. Without our own church community none of this would be possible so the biggest thanks go to all who came.

Our time was so enjoyable that many were hopeful that we could come together again as a new knitting community. For in our knitting circles we share our craft and enthusiasm. Plus through our individual efforts, when combined together, we can provide for the needs of others. In one word – Community.

**Tim Hoffmann**, (new knitter), BUC Arts Committee