

VOICES



**THANKS
TO YOU**

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THE FUTURE**

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OXFAM
Australia



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Our life-changing development programs and life-saving humanitarian efforts are made possible by the generous support of donors like you and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Oxfam Australia acknowledges the First Peoples of Australia as the original custodians of the land, and respects the rights they hold as the Traditional Custodians.

We also recognise the dispossession of the land and its ongoing effects on First Nations Peoples today.

First Peoples readers should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.

Cover photo: Likisa, Timor-Leste: Natersia with her beloved plants. Since joining Romansa, Natersia has saved enough money for a corn grinder, as well as shoes for her grandchildren. Photo: Patrick Moran/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Connections

with Lyn Morgan, Chief Executive

In this edition of Voices, we have lots to celebrate.

As inequality grows and the ultra-rich increase their wealth, we were excited to learn that world leaders at the G20 meeting in Brazil agreed to work together towards the introduction of better tax systems.

Oxfam is proud to be one of the leading organisations globally campaigning for this agreement. Fair taxation, especially taxing big corporations properly, would raise billions of dollars that could be used to improve the lives of people living in poverty. You can read about Oxfam's screening of the Tax Wars documentary on page 5.

We continue to be called upon to assist in times of crisis, and with your help, we can respond. In Kenya, where more than 4 million people are facing extreme hunger, we have been able to deliver life-saving cash transfers, crops and other essentials to people living through drought. Read Nkariyon's story on page 10.

You'll also hear from Said from Indonesia and Roy from Vanuatu. Thanks to your continued support, Said, Roy and their respective communities have been able to learn new cultivation and farming techniques, and adapt their livelihood practices to better meet the challenges of a changing climate.

As always, we are humbled by your commitment and dedication to creating an equal world where no-one lives in poverty. Thank you so much for making this work possible. I hope you enjoy reading Voices.

Letters to Lyn



Photo: Keith Parsons/Oxfam

Dear Lyn and team,

I did my first Walk Against Want in 1987 (30kms) and raised quite a bit of money. I loved it, walking from Australia Square, over the bridge to Mosman and around the zoo. It rained all day and I got soaked to the skin, but it was great fun and I met a lot of interesting people. The next year, it only rained half the day.

I've supported Oxfam from 1987 to now. A very worthwhile charity. At Christmas time, I order gifts to send to my family and friends. One year, I gave a goat (Unwrapped card) to my granddaughter as a wedding present, she loved it!!

Thank you for all your work. God bless you. I'm 93 now, so have slowed down a tad.

– Mary.

Dear Lyn,

Humanity is amazing, incredible, inspiring, loving and compassionate. Yet, we are also flawed, capable of the most horrific acts. I have faith in the goodness of humanity; we have progressed.

Organisations such as Oxfam highlight the good we are capable of. Edmund Burke said: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Oxfam is proof that the evils of poverty, injustice, inequality and lack of opportunity can be overcome. It is an organisation of good people doing something. We are all important, each of us helped by another. It may be a parent, grandparent, partner or child. By ourselves, we may seem to be small. By joining together, we can make a difference.

I was a donor over many years. As a disability pensioner, I can't do as much. I can help out though by sharing hope, raising awareness and giving when I can. I will leave a bequest. This can make a difference. I believe in: "Be the change you want to see."

–Peter.



If you'd like to share your story, drop me a line at enquire@oxfam.org.au, scan this QR code or use the enclosed form and Reply Paid envelope.

Thanks to you ...

Women in Timor-Leste are increasing their ability to run their own businesses, farm their land and sell their produce, after joining savings groups. By saving together, they are able to take low-interest loans for essentials like farm equipment.

Aboriginal women are creating networks across the country. Gregriana and Bayah, from Kununarra, Western Australia, attended the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council Roundtable event in Broome in November 2023, as part of the Straight Talk program. The program connects women with local, state and federal decision-making bodies.



Broome, Western Australia: Gregriana and Bayah, pictured at the Roundtable in November 2023. Photo: Aimee Han/Oxfam.

Breakthrough in the fight for a wealth tax

At the July meeting of the G20 in Brazil, finance ministers from the 20 biggest economies, including Australia, made a historic agreement to work together to better tax the ultra-rich.

Oxfam is proud to be one of the leading organisations globally campaigning for this agreement. It's the first time in history that world leaders have collectively recognised the problem of inequality and the need to better tax the ultra-wealthy.

We believe the current state of economic inequality and injustice affecting millions of people around the world is a result of deliberate policy choices and economic systems that favour the super-rich and corporations, and exclude others. With you, our dedicated supporters, backing us, we have been able to campaign for fairer tax systems that can raise the revenue needed for quality public services and for eradicating poverty.

In early August, we hosted a screening of *Tax Wars*, a documentary about how the Independent



Melbourne, Australia: ICRICT Commissioner and former Australian Treasurer Wayne Swan at the *Tax Wars* screening in Melbourne. Photo: Josie Lee/Oxfam.

Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT) is fighting for multinational corporations to pay their fair share of tax.

In his role as Commissioner of ICRICT, former Australian Treasurer Wayne Swan spoke about the need to better tax corporations and redistribute wealth. We also heard from the Deputy CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service, Jacqueline Phillips, and Oxfam's Chief Executive Lyn Morgain, speaking about how we can harness this opportunity to build a better world free from poverty.

With your continued support, we will not stop fighting until we live in a world without the inequalities that keep people in poverty.



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Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: Scene from a camp in Cox's Bazar. Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam.



Umma gains confidence and protects her neighbours

Umma is originally from a village in Myanmar, where she lived with her family on their own land. In 2017, after her husband died, Umma was forcefully displaced and had to flee to Bangladesh, where she and her two children arrived at Cox's Bazar – the world's largest refugee camp.

Umma's sons have now started families of their own. As an older woman living alone in a refugee camp, her day-to-day survival is difficult. She was initially overwhelmed by camp life, but thanks to the contributions of Oxfam's generous supporters and the Australian Humanitarian Partnership, Umma gained strength from learning new skills. She participated in a community-based protection committee supported by Oxfam's partner, Mukti Cox's Bazar.

From learning where to seek justice and obtain rations to understanding the risks of trafficking and fire safety,

Umma has not only enhanced her own life but she also began to actively contribute to her community's safety and wellbeing. She takes pride in her role on the Protection Committee, ensuring that her neighbours are safe and informed.

"I have learnt and gained a lot by coming here," Umma said. "I try to make people in my community aware so that nobody sleeps with burning coal, which could lead to a fire at home. I try to make them understand that we should stand by each other."



Molpoe community, Vanuatu: Roy fishes off the coast, near his home in Vanuatu. Photo: Ivan Utahenua/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Adapting to the realities of climate change

The Bajo is a traditional fishing community from Indonesia whose ancestors have lived alongside the ocean for centuries.

The Bajo people rely on the ocean for their food and livelihoods, but as the water is warming, fish are disappearing and the rising ocean is threatening the Bajo community's homes.

The climate crisis is creating new challenges for this community – but thanks to your generous support, they do not have to face them alone. Working with our local partner organisations, the Bajo people have learnt new farming approaches so they can sustain their livelihoods, and even their cultures, as the climate changes.

Said used seeds, tools and most importantly information on how to cultivate land and grow crops to feed the

people around him. Thanks to you, Said can now take his boat out without having to rely completely on fishing for his food and income.

Your support has also helped the people of the Molpoe community in Vanuatu. As they began to rebuild after a landslide destroyed their homes and livelihoods, your generosity enabled our local partner organisation Sunset Santo Environmental Network (SSEN) to supply tools and run training courses on adapting to the future with climate change. Roy, from the Molpoe community, told us that compassionate people like you made it possible for SSEN to help them recover from the landslide.



Bajo community, Indonesia: Said tends the community plantation garden. Photo: Vikram Sombu/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Marsabit county, Kenya: Nkariyon's community is facing severe food insecurity, water stress and public health risks due to several years of drought. Photo: Claire Walker/Oxfam. This project is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) and is implemented by Oxfam.

Hope for the future

Not so many years ago, Nkariyon, who lives in Farakoren, Kenya, had enough food and water to keep her family healthy. But years of drought and conflict have left her with barely enough to survive.

"There was a time we had so much livestock, we were alive, we had so much energy, now the drought has taken all," Nkariyon said.

Kenya is experiencing the worst drought in more than 40 years. Around 4.4 million people within Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands are facing extreme hunger. This has been intensified by five successive below-average rainy seasons.

In Marsabit county, more than 55% of the population are experiencing extreme hunger and 15% are experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity.

Before the drought, Nkariyon's life was very different. "Before, we had goats and livestock as our banks," Nkariyon said. "The mothers are the one that see the children are struggling a lot."

With generous donations from supporters like you, coupled with funding from the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership, Oxfam has been able to deliver multi-purpose cash transfers and drought-resilient crops, including sorghum, to Nkariyon and the Farakoren community in Marsabit county.

"Now that we have got the money, it has helped us a lot. Now we can buy all the food and feed all our children," Nkariyon said.

"Now you can buy rice, beans and depend on it. It has helped buy food, good food for their children. They are saying thank you ... they are saying thank you very much."

GIFTS THAT DO ~~GOOD~~ GREAT

Make your loved ones smile with a truly thoughtful gift. With the festive season just around the corner, Oxfam Unwrapped has gifts to suit everyone!

Your lucky recipient will receive a card explaining how their gift is helping others, and you'll both feel good knowing that you're tackling poverty together.

"I am the only female honey farmer in the whole of Bangladesh. I feel very proud that I came from a remote place and was recognised as the only proud female honey farmer in Bangladesh."

– Koruna, participant of green-business training program run by Oxfam partner organisation, Community Development Centre.



Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam.
Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

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Likisa, Timor-Leste: Natersia in front of her home. Since joining Romansa, Natersia has saved enough money for a corn grinder, as well as shoes for her grandchildren. Photo: Patrick Moran/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Saving together benefits everyone

This is Natersia. At 68 years old, Natersia is still working hard to provide for her children and grandchildren in Timor-Leste.

Thanks to loyal supporters like you, Natersia was able to join a savings group, known as Romansa, through local partner Kdadalak Sulimutuk Institute and Oxfam's Hakbi'it program. Group members learn how to set savings goals, then save regularly, take loans through the group's fund, and repay the loans at low interest.

"I am very pleased to be part of the Romansa group because it is beneficial. We save money from the week," Natersia said. "The first time, we saved USD \$2.50 (AUD \$3.70) a week and divided the money after six months. The second time we saved USD \$5 (AUD \$7.40) a week."

Natersia has used the money from the savings group to buy farm equipment and to make sure her grandchildren have what they need to go to school.

"The first round of Romansa, I used the money to buy a machine to grind the corn. It grinds the corn for the pig to eat and for us to eat," she said. "For the second round, I used it to buy chairs. The remainder, I use it to support my children, and grandchildren to go to school. Buying their shoes, their uniforms – I must support my children.

"If I did not join Romansa, I would not be able to buy the corn grinder machine. We would just do it manually with our hands. Now that I've joined Romansa, with the money I took out, I bought a USD \$80 (AUD \$120) machine."



Likisa, Timor-Leste: Natersia in her garden. Photo: Patrick Moran/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The reality of working in a garment factory: Rumi's story

Rumi lives with her older sister and brother-in-law in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where she has worked in a garment factory for three years.



Dhaka, Bangladesh: Rumi works long hours in the garment factory. Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam.

Rumi folds and matches fabric pieces and has a target of 180 pieces per hour.

“When we meet the target, the supervisor says nothing, but if we don’t meet targets then they scold us,” Rumi said. “I want them to treat us better.”

Rumi works hard in the factory and often has to wait until she has met her target before being able to go to the bathroom.

“If I go [to the bathroom], I can’t produce my target. My supervisor would scold me. After meeting the target, if I got one or two minutes’ time, then I go,” she said.

“I work eight hours in the factory every day. When there is work pressure, I work overtime. I work 56 hours in a week ... My salary is not sufficient ... I have two younger sisters at home. I bear their educational expense. I give them some money. I give room rent and help my sister and her husband.”

Rumi’s salary of 8,000 taka (about AUD \$100) per month is not enough to cover her rent, food and clothes, and medicine when she needs it.

“This is not sufficient for me. What I get is not enough. Our salary is not enough.”

Rumi said a fairer monthly salary would enable her to live a better life.

“If I had a 23,000-taka salary [about AUD \$240], it would be better... I think a living wage is a proper payment that we should receive. With that, we could live in a good environment and live better. We could eat better. As it is, we cannot eat fish and meat in a week. Our salary is insufficient. If it increases, we could do everything better.”

Thanks to dedicated supporters like you, Oxfam’s What She Makes campaign continues to demand that big clothing brands pay the women who make our clothes a living wage. You can lend your support by visiting oxfam.org.au/what-she-makes

Katina combines her passion for health with the love of her culture

Building connections and collaborating with women from all over the Kimberley region were front and centre of Katina Coffin's mind when she attended the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council Roundtable in Broome in November 2023.

Thanks to dedicated supporters like you, Katina was able to attend the Roundtable as part of Oxfam's Straight Talk program. Straight Talk connects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with Australia's political system, building their capacity as change makers.

A Yawuru woman, Katina works in sexual and reproductive health.

"My job is that I deliver a lot of sexual health education to young girls. I think it's really important, especially just knowing about our reproductive health, because that's what makes us women," Katina said.

"I think my passion is health in itself, because you know, you have to look after yourself. When you think about health, we're not only talking about ... physical health, we're talking about mental health, our social and emotional wellbeing, like our spiritual health.

"Something I learnt from the Roundtable which really stood in my mind from yesterday's talk was that you need to speak up for yourself," Katina said. "Because if you don't speak up for yourself, then someone else is going to speak on your behalf, and that might not necessarily be what you want voiced. So, if we've got a voice, we've got to use it."

Katina's cultural identity is central to her life and she wants to pass this on through the generations.

"What I love about my culture is, you know it's my identity. I know I'm Yawuru, I know I come from Saltwater Country," she said.

"You know, just being brought up on Country and learning these things and then passing it on to the kids, and you know that's the way that you interact with your kids, just teaching them the same things that you've been brought up doing. I just love that you can feel the shift ... women are bringing up other women now."



Kimberley region, Western Australia: Joining the Roundtable gave Katina the chance to network with other women. Photo: Aimee Han/Oxfam.



Perth, Western Australia: Olivia loves chatting to her customers at the Fair Trade shop. Photo: Jordan Steiner/Oxfam.

Shopping locally for a global impact

Since 2007, volunteers at the Fair Trade Shop in Perth have been raising awareness about fair trade principles and Oxfam. Not only has the shop become an important part of the Oxfamily, but it's an integral part of the Bayswater community as well.

Long-time Oxfam supporter Olivia Boulud loves getting to know her local community. And she manages to blend this with her passion for tackling poverty by working at the Fair Trade Shop in Bayswater, Perth.

Olivia is the coordinator of the Fair Trade WA Oxfam community group and has been volunteering with them for five years. She previously volunteered with Oxfam Trailwalker at the Perth events.

"I love it here for many reasons," Olivia said. "It's a space where I get to meet like-minded people, not just volunteers but also customers. I get to meet people who know about Oxfam's work (most of them) and want to come and support Oxfam by shopping with us."

Many customers from the local community come in to have a browse and a chat. Olivia and the team know lots of the customers by name and over the years the shop has become a bit of a local institution. It now has 5,000 followers on social media.

The shop stocks a wide variety of fair trade and ethically sourced products and is a completely volunteer-run, community supporter group, which supports Oxfam through profits raised from sales.

Check out the Fair Trade Shop on facebook at www.facebook.com/fairtradewa

Moving the dial for girls back home

When Beautlyn Eliab was looking for volunteer opportunities in Australia, Oxfam was a natural choice.

Beautlyn had worked for Oxfam as an influencing and advocacy officer in her home country of Papua New Guinea, and it was there that she realised she needed to increase her knowledge and capacity.

“I decided to apply for a scholarship in Australia,” she said. “It was like, I’ve got nothing to lose, I might as well just put that paper in.”

Beautlyn’s application was successful and she arrived in Australia in 2022 to study International Community Development at Victoria University.

“I’m trying to learn as much as I can,” she said.

In PNG, Beautlyn worked on the implementation side of projects. She saw volunteering at Oxfam Australia as a way to see “what the other side looks like”. She worked with our Programs team, attended the Kimberley Aboriginal Women’s Council Roundtable in Broome, and spent time learning about content production.

Beautlyn believes her time in Australia has already had a positive influence on girls back home.

“I have a younger sister and I have cousins who are girls,” she said. “It’s really good to see their perspective of the world broaden, and they say that, ‘Oh I can do this, I can go out as well’. And I want them to explore.”

Beautlyn sees other things changing in PNG, albeit slowly.

“I think ... maybe my generation and the generation before me ... are coming out of the colonisation mentality that, ‘Oh, we need to wait for someone else to come and save us’ and it’s more like ‘Oh, we should do it this way, our way, the way that works best for us’. A lot of them are going into development spaces. It’s happening at a slow pace, but I’m hopeful.”

We were lucky to have Beautlyn with us at Oxfam Australia during her two-year stay, and we’ll be watching as her career progresses.

“Oh, I’m going to miss Melbourne,” Beautlyn said.



Broome, Western Australia: Beautlyn, pictured at the Kimberley Aboriginal Women’s Council Roundtable. Photo: Aimee Han/Oxfam.



Photos: Supplied

A trip that led to a lifetime of giving

Robyn Walden is no stranger to Oxfam's work, having been a regular supporter since the late 1970s, back when we were called Community Aid Abroad (CAA).

"As a young woman, I travelled to India and Nepal for six weeks with a group of other Oxfam supporters," Robyn said. "It was a trip that changed my life."

The group was able to see Oxfam's work first-hand.

"In Madras, we found ourselves in the middle of a crisis: extensive flooding after heavy rain. We were taken into people's homes that were nearly underwater," she said.

One of the highlights for Robyn was visiting a group of people who had received a loan from CAA to buy their first goats, which meant they could eventually buy their own land and free themselves from landlords who had controlled their lives and kept them in poverty.

"We danced with the women and lunched on goat's milk and cheese. Financial independence allowed these people to lead a life of dignity and hope," she said.

"The trip was rough (we travelled by train, bus, jeeps, bullock carts, and on foot). Even our oldest clothes

looked like riches to many of the people we met. The poverty was unsettling but it opened our eyes to the difference that an organisation like Oxfam can make to people's lives."

Robyn visited villages where Oxfam had helped the villagers plant a variety of nutritious vegetables that improved their diet and health.

"This kind of knowledge was unheard of back then," she said.

Thank you, Robyn, for your dedication to Oxfam and for your ongoing regular support. You are one of the many people who make it possible for Oxfam to keep working towards an equal future where no-one lives in poverty.



Professor Somers. Photo: Supplied.

Remembering Professor Krishna Somers

“By any standards, a man who transcends even two cultures must be exceptional. The achievement of Krishna Somers was phenomenal. His roots were in India, his heart was in Africa, his mind was in Britain and America, and his feet finally came to rest in Perth, Western Australia.” – Mr Keith Platel, friend and Charity Trustee

Professor Krishna Somers was one of Oxfam’s most dedicated supporters. The Krishna Somers Charitable Trust continues to support people experiencing poverty and inequality.

Professor Somers grew up in South Africa during apartheid, when schools were segregated. He won a scholarship to study medicine at the University of Witwatersrand, then the only university in the country without racist admission policies. But when he finished, he found it difficult to continue his medical training.

He told a friend: “I found myself in the invidious position where I could never work or take further training because the teaching hospitals, which were government institutions, would not hire non-white doctors. It was just impossible.”

Notwithstanding the incredible challenges of racism, inequality and economic difficulty, Professor Somers moved abroad and rose to be an internationally renowned authority on endomyocardial fibrosis and cardiovascular disease in warm climates.

He settled in Perth, Western Australia, which his friend and Trustee, Mr Keith Platel, said he found difficult in the early years. “No doubt this period reinforced his concern for migrants and refugees and led to his lifelong contributions to try to ease their sufferings.”

Oxfam Australia is grateful beyond measure for the contributions The Krishna Somers Charitable Trust has made to our work.

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Do you want to help change the world and have a lasting positive impact? A regular donation is the perfect way to do it.

Regular Givers are part of an amazing community who support people all over the world to lift themselves out of poverty and thrive.

Every donation to Oxfam helps make a difference for people living in poverty — not just for today, but for planning well into the future too. No matter how big or small, a regular donation brings to life our

shared vision of a just and sustainable future without the inequalities that keep people in poverty.

Contact us on 1800 088 110 today to find out how you can become a Regular Giver, or sign up at www.oxfam.org.au/donation and choose the option that's best for you.

Likisa, Timor-Leste: Ilda and her husband Angelino, with their children. Ilda is a leader in her Romansa savings group. Photo: Patrick Moran/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Reflections on a friendship

Doreen Williams was a loyal and committed Oxfam supporter, who first donated to Oxfam in 1998 during the Sudan emergency.

Doreen made the incredible decision to leave a gift to Oxfam in her Will. Here, her friend Tanya Williams remembers Doreen, who died in 2022.

"I knew Doreen for 19 years. We were neighbours for 15 years (our surnames were a coincidence; we were not actually related) and became closer during her partner's long illness and subsequent passing. Doreen's family were interstate and overseas so when her partner passed, we became close friends.

I knew Doreen as a kind and compassionate lady. She felt deeply about the suffering of others and found that the best way that she could help was to contribute money on an ongoing basis. She contributed to many different organisations mainly dealing with those that would help children and animals – both innocent and defenceless.

She loved her pets Thomas, a small Maltese, a loyal companion and her best friend, and Lucy, a very intelligent and loving cat that was her partner's cat. Over the years Doreen had many animals, mainly dogs, and at one stage owned her own pet store. She said that she didn't always get along with her customers because she was very fussy about who bought the animals in her pet store.

Doreen had definite views on particular subjects and could be very forthright, but I will remember her as a bright, happy, caring, funny, intelligent person who was fun to be around and have a great conversation with. She was 82 when she passed."

We are so grateful to Doreen for including Oxfam Australia in her Will. Her incredibly kind gift will



Doreen Williams. Photo: Supplied.

contribute to our programs around the world, working towards an equal future where no-one lives in poverty. Thank you, Tanya, for sharing Doreen's story with us.

If you're considering leaving a gift in your Will and would like information scan the QR code, visit oxfam.org.au/wills or email bequest@oxfam.org.au



Walking against the odds

With a little help from his friends, Matt Parker completed his third Oxfam Trailwalker this year, despite being told he would never be able to walk.

Matt was diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a child. But his tenacity, along with the support of his family, helped him to take his first steps at age seven. Since then, he has continued on a journey that would prove many people wrong.

Matt's team mates participated in every Trailwalker since it began in 1999, raising well over \$100,000. Matt never says no to an adventure, so when he was invited to join the team in 2016, he immediately started hatching a plan to make it work.

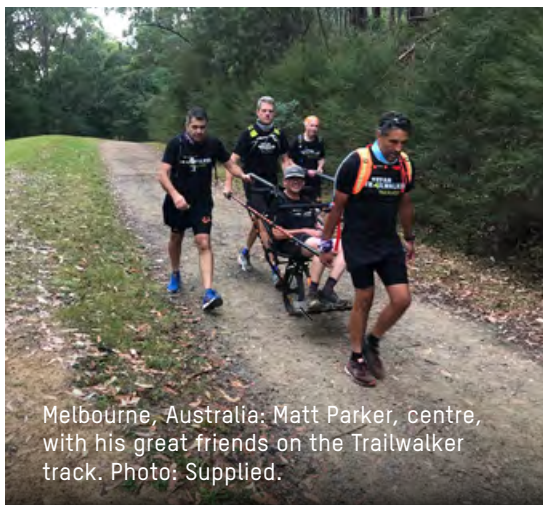
During his first training session, Matt walked between two broomsticks that his teammates held horizontally to provide him with extra support. This was the beginning of Monty: an innovative aluminium framework the team built, which got its name because it looked like something out of a Monty Python sketch.

Monty, along with a healthy dose of team spirit, helped the team get through Trailwalker in 2016 and 2017.

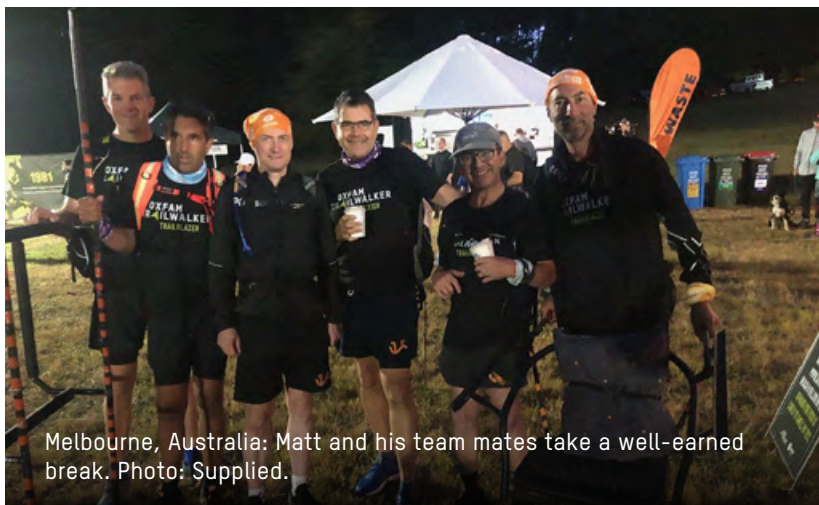
"I think the collaborative effort that enabled me the courage and luck to begin to walk unaided played out each time I walked Trailwalker," Matt said.

For the 2024 event — the last one in Trailwalker history — Matt joined the team again and they decided to level up. They created Carlo by welding a metal chair and a BMX bike together to make a something akin to a wheelchair. Monty was bolted onto Carlo to create a chariot-like contraption, called Monty Carlo.

While the novel Monty Carlo helped the team traverse the course, it was their strength and friendship that carried them over the finish line. "The mateship, banter and encouragement which we all enjoy is priceless to me," Matt said.



Melbourne, Australia: Matt Parker, centre, with his great friends on the Trailwalker track. Photo: Supplied.



Melbourne, Australia: Matt and his team mates take a well-earned break. Photo: Supplied.

The final Trailwalker

After 25 years, and having raised more than \$100 million to help eliminate poverty, Oxfam celebrated its final Trailwalker event in Melbourne in March this year.

Since 1999, around 100,000 Australians have tackled the ultimate challenge, raising funds to support Oxfam's lifesaving projects around the globe. These brave participants, along with thousands of volunteers and

hundreds of staff members have made this event a significant part of Oxfam's DNA for a quarter of a century. We are honoured to have shared these walks with so many passionate and generous supporters.

Melbourne, Australia: The final 33km start line wave at the final Trailwalker. Photo: Heidi Demond/Oxfam.





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Perth, Australia: The Fair Trade Shop is a community shop that proudly supports the work of Oxfam Australia. Photo: Jordan Steiner/Oxfam.