

KasNEWS - MARCH 2012

RONDA'S WISH LIST 2012

The main feature of this year's Wish List is to request that members focus on the needs of children 2-14yrs old as currently Ronda has enough stock to cover baby needs for the coming winter season. However, [KasCuddles](#) are very much in demand, but the size has been updated, please see link below.

It has been requested that we reduce the size of the tail end piece of yarn to 50cm/half a yard. Don't worry if you have already sent squares with longer tails or no tails at all, the squares will still be used.

Square Vests

If you joined us through finding the Square Vest Pattern on the website, are currently involved in knitting a Square Vest, please can we ask you to make it a third longer than a square. The Square Vest pattern will be replaced soon with a variety of SlipOver patterns which are longer and ensure our children's tummies are kept warm.

[OFFICIAL WISH LIST](#)

[KASCARE UPDATED PATTERN](#)

MISSING SQUARE LIST

The mystery of November 2011 Square List has now been solved and to check if your goodies have arrived it can now be viewed on :

[SQUARE LIST NOVEMBER](#)

PATTERNS - DEVELOPMENT

Carol Playford and Linda Maltby, are going to team-work and produce a list of the most needed items - it will consist of a photograph of a garment + the dimensions and will be linked to a pattern. This will be guided by Ronda and we hope that this project will provide clarity for new and not-so-new members! Once this is completed all the patterns on the Forum will be reviewed - Anne Powell is Housekeeping on the Forum to make it easier to locate items and navigate. Both these tasks will require more time, but it is good to know that they are taking shape.

MONTHLY CHALLENGES

The March Challenge was posted by Sandy : [The Curro Aurora Challenge](#) - be part of the world's biggest blanket! The Curro Aurora School challenge in South Africa is to create the worlds' biggest hand-woven blanket by July 14th and to be displayed in the massive Coca Cola dome in Gauteng, to coincide with Mandela Day. KAS is linking with them to help this project achieve its aim.

APRIL CHALLENGE

The April Challenge is going to be Flags.



It would be lovely to see your version of the various national flags from around the world, or, simply crafting squares using the colours of the flag. It will continue to demonstrate that KAS is a truly global community.

You can see a list of future challenges [here](#) and please contribute any creative ideas you have.

EVENTS

[Yours Live 2012](#) in Skegness (UK) was a great success and in 2 days the ladies attending knitted up a storm of 350 squares to produce 10 blankets for KAS! Pam Johnson raised £279 through her Tombola to cover the cost of postage - a great team effort lead by Carol Playford. For reports and photographs click [here](#).

SPREADING THE WORD

[KAS FLYER - IS NOW IN FRENCH!](#)

Sarah Shantti from Brussels in Belgium has kindly translated the KAS flyer into French to help spread-the-word into non-English speaking communities.

On Sarah's discussion page see attachments : knit-a-square.jpg for the actual translation.



Stricken für den Weltfrieden – das “Knit-a-Square”-Projekt

If you speak German, or, even if you don't, please do visit this link from Susanne Schlesinger who recently joined the Forum. Susanne runs a company organising Safari's to various countries in Africa and has linked to KAS and is providing information and photographs [here on her company website](#).

Further links from Spreading-the-Word added during March :

How charity knitting changed my life

Fellowship by Design- Letter from Ronda

Kitty's Fiber Journey: Knit a squillion

Jigsaw - knit-a-square

Yarn Bomb South Africa

Sweet Posy Dreams - knit-a-square update

Knitting for AIDS Orphans in Africa - Made with Love UK

PS from this page they may take a moment or two to appear.

A FORUM MEMBER IN SOUTH AFRICA

Julia has returned to the UK after her stint in South Africa, but will be plans to go back. Read some of Julia's [weekly blogs](#) about her time with the school children. Here is a snippet from March 1st : This morning we held an open air service for the first time in three years, all together. I have to admit to wiping away the tears as they all sang together, just under 400 children all sat on the ground between the two buildings of the school. The sun shone and their voices filled the air it must have been heard for some distance.

WOOL GIRL, YARN BOY & TWEEDIE!

Apologies to Maudie Bryan - mis-spelled her name in the February edition. Maudie has very generously offered to donate a percentage of any sales of her books to KasCare. We took an edition of the Wool Girl book to Yours Live 2012 and placed her on the table with some KAS material, needles and the beginning of Pam J's pom pom hat on the knitting loom! Maudie also contributes squares which are often very quirky and great fun!



TALLY or ITEM COUNT

From the Forum the total of squares sent as part of the Squillion challenge has reached 85,309 - the true figure is probably much higher, and we are hopeful of reaching 100,000 by the end of June. The UK squares collected by Jigsaw Clothing shops were shipped to South Africa in the last week of February. Thanks to Jigsaw the knitters of the UK didn't have to find the postage to send their squares from October right through to February 27th - it was a truly wonderful contribution by them and shows that some companies do take social responsibility seriously. If you would like to read more discussions about the Jigsaw contribution, especially Sandy's "JIGSAW partners with knit-a-square to drive more squares", [click here](#).

A FORUM STORY from Pam Johnson

I had a heart warming phone call last December. In response to a newspaper appeal for wool I have been having emails from a man called John. He is going to drive quite a long way - about 40 miles each way - to bring me a bin bag full of wool. It was his wife's - she died last May and he sounded so very sad and this was his first Christmas alone. It is so kind that he wants to give it to KAS. Someone showed him the newspaper clipping and he wants to bring it up to me - he is 71. I am looking forward to meeting him - a good story to start the year and I will be able to keep my knitting team supplied for a while. John made it to my house - what a charming man - who obviously misses his wife a lot. He was fascinated by the Izzy dolls and photos of the KAS children. I sent him off with a newsletter as he would like more information about the use his wool has been put to. He left saying he would send me a cheque for postage - ah, quite a day. It was like Christmas when I unpacked the two big sacks to find 10kg of good quality double knitting in a rainbow of colours! [Click here](#) for a pic of this wonderful bounty.

CONTINUING GROWTH OF KAS

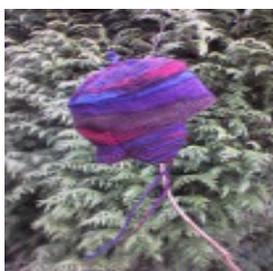
Each month KAS is continuing to expand in our existing countries. We would also like to mention contributions from Wendy's group in Singapore and, Katarzyna, Iza and Małgosia. Mrs Anna from Poland recently sent 110 squares. Ronda mentioned they had received their first even parcel from Lebanon. We are increasingly a truly global community.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook - please tick [LIKE](#), as we have reached figure of 3,271 followers today, therefore the next target has to be 4,000 !

CONTRIBUTIONS

KAS has seen some wonderful contributions on the [photo tab](#), here are just a few to wet your appetite :

- 36 Hexagonal Sweaters from Dee Cristofoli - France
- A hat with earflaps from Arlene -Canada
- Daisy Squares from Maggie - USA



To view the range of wonderful squares and garments posted on the Forum Photo tab see the direct link below - you won't be disappointed!

FINAL THOUGHTS

New member, Patricia Barnett, commented : I thought how lovely that perhaps one of my squares will be next to someone's square from across the other side of the world - so we are all sewn together - and trying to help a little child stay warm - if you see what I mean. I had sweet dreams after that thought.

NOTE FROM SANDY

Hello dear KasFolk,

A large private school here in Melbourne invited me to present on knit-a-square yesterday to 500 13 and 14 year-old girls. The school, Methodist Ladies College has already contributed several thousand squares over the last two years.

I told them the story of a fictitious child, Thembo who lived in one of the shack settlements in Soweto. His mother had died and father disappeared and he now lived alone with his grandmother and attended a small day care centre near their shack. This is a common enough story, sadly.

One day our wonderful volunteers arrived and wrapped him in a colourful blanket, each square stitched with love. And the volunteer said, *“you are unique and special and you have a role to play in your country. Stay warm and safe and know that you are in the hearts of thousands of people all over the world.”*

When the story was finished I asked if they would like to knit a square and make a difference in the life of a little boy like Thembo.

500 hands shot up in the assembly hall. And I thought, "How wonderful. Not only will dozens more children be made warm and comforted, but these young girls now have children like Thembo in their heads and hearts. They will tell others and more and more people will learn of their plight.

With love, Sandy

PS. If there is anyone interested in presenting this story, we would be delighted to provide it together with the pdf slide presentation that accompanies it. We can add it to resources. It is about a 7-10 minute presentation.