



September 14, 2017

### **A Waitemata DHB tribute to Millicent**

Arthritis forced long-time North Shore Hospital Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) supporter Millicent McComb to hang up her knitting needles when she was just four-months shy of her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

One of the last items she donated was a baby beanie – one of many she knitted and gave to the unit over multiple years to help keep infants warm. The beanie was put aside by SCBU Charge Nurse Manager Karen Boyle who couldn't quite bring herself to give it away. Instead she had the tiny hat mounted and framed as a tribute to its creator.

“We are always grateful for hats and blankets,” Karen says. “We use them on the ward and also send the little hats home with mothers and their new-borns. Millicent knitted both over a number of years and her efforts were always greatly appreciated. This little beanie was her last and it seemed fitting to do something extra special with it.”

The finished product was taken to Millicent this month for a final look before being hung in a place of honour at SCBU. It includes some information typed by Millicent's late daughter, Barbara Chalton from Takapuna, just before her death on May 12, aged 77. The note says Millicent taught herself to knit when she was a 10-year-old, sharpening two old bicycle spokes from her father's workshop and using them as her first pair of needles.

Millicent, who lives in a retirement facility at Glenfield, was surprised and thrilled to see the beanie again. She's even started doing handcrafts again after successful treatment of her arthritis and encourages others to donate knitted items to the unit also.

“I think it's a good thing to be able to do. I really love seeing these little babies wearing the outfits and I'm just glad to be able to help.”

● Email [info@wellfoundation.org.nz](mailto:info@wellfoundation.org.nz) if you have any knitted items to donate or if you would like to get involved and require a knitting pattern.

### **Ends**

CAPTION 1: Millicent McComb, 101, was pleased to see her framed beanie again and urges others to knit hats and blankets for the Special Care Baby Unit at North Shore Hospital.

CAPTION 2: North Shore Hospital Special Care Baby Unit Charge Nurse Manager Karen Boyle has hung Millicent's knitted beanie in a place of honour.

### **For further information contact:**

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