



Pearl Beach

2018 Christmas Backpack Project for the Homeless

MEDIA RELEASE

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Christmas, is a special time for families, we need to remember that there are lot of disadvantaged homeless people. To show a homeless person that we care, Pearl Beach residents and friends banded together to help one of their own to provide “Christmas Backpacks for the Homeless” full of goodies this Christmas.

Lyn Cappella founded and registered a charity called Homeless Support Inc. The charity has no paid staff and 100% of any donations go to assist a homeless person. To many of the homeless in Woolloomooloo and Martin Place in Sydney, Lyn is known as the “Chicken lady”. Over the years, she has organised and distributed many food and support packages to homeless people.

On moving to the tranquility of Pearl Beach, she presented her idea to also support the homeless on the Central Coast. She was overwhelmed by the generosity from the local community.

The 2018 Christmas Backpack Project for the Homeless has been an outstanding success.

We asked individuals and organisations to help us fill backpacks with items so very much appreciated by a homeless person. The contents of each filled backpack costs about \$50 and our goal for the Central Coast was 50 backpacks.

There were a number of small parties and fundraising events organised including drinks parties, dinners and the most successful **Afternoon Tea** with over 50 locals coming along. At the Community Christmas Dinner we asked each table to fill one or two backpacks, again a resounding success.

Results to date are:

\$5,000 in cash; \$250 Opal cards; Coast Shelter 75 packs including food vouchers, gift vouchers and a variety of special gift items. In addition, with help from Sydney volunteers a further 55 packs were distributed in Martin Place and Woolloomooloo, and 50 in Liverpool.

There are so many people to thank, however, a special thanks to Woy Woy Rotary; Pearl Beach residents and friends, particularly locals Linda and Greg McPhee who put the project into action, and Dawn Maclean, Mark Burton and Charles Boyton from Coast Shelter who packed the bags for Central Coast delivery. In addition, McDonalds who donated food vouchers. And importantly, Lyn Cappella who is the driving force heading up the homeless charity.

For more information on how to get involved, and to donate during the coming year please email your enquiry to:

Info@homelesssupportinc.com.au

End: Lynne Lillico lilli77@bigpond.com

Dawn MacLean & Mark Burton with Charles Boyton packing the bags for Christmas

