

29<sup>th</sup> January

Hi Tina & Kerrie,

Thank you for your recent efforts in arranging Christmas gifts for drought affected families in the Narrabri area. I hope you don't mind but I thought I would just send the one email to let you both know how everything went.

In total we distributed just over 200 gifts. With only a little over 2 weeks before Christmas to get the gifts matched to recipients and distributed across the shire it took some serious effort on the part of our members & provided some logistical challenges but we got there in the end with the last gifts delivered on 22 December. Our club reached out to the organisers of the Rowena & Spring Plains Christmas Tree events, the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, School and Church communities as well as those families already registered with our Neighbours in Need project.

The gifts were in all cases gratefully accepted and brought smiles to the faces of the children and parents alike. There were even a few excited hugs for our members doing the deliveries from some of the mums. I have attached a few pictures which may be of interest to you both

Our Club was amazed at the generosity of your friends, family & our fellow Rotarians and inspired by your individual efforts.

When this drought may break is anyone's guess and should conditions remain as they are I would like to encourage you both to consider something similar for Christmas 2020.

Our experience this year has led to the following observations:

- The compassion that motivated the donation of the Christmas gifts resonated with families and provided a much needed lift to spirits
- Matching the donated gifts to individual children was challenging and time consuming
- The bulky nature of some gifts meant that hand delivery was necessary as postage was expensive, our members did many kilometres.
- Local businesses also significantly affected by the drought were inadvertently denied the income that locally purchased gifts would have provided.
- Community gift cards provide a great alternative to donated goods. We have used the local Why Leave Town eftpos cards to great effect with our other Neighbours in Need activities. These cards help circulate money through our local businesses and the wider community and empower our farming families by giving them the freedom of choice

My sincere thanks and all the best for 2020

Kind Regards

*Julie Herbert*

President - Rotary Club of Narrabri

Mobile: 0408921339





