

Needy are wrapped in joy

THE Tree of Joy in the Eastwood Centre and West Ryde Shopping Centre enabled the Rotary Club of Ryde to deliver more than 900 gifts to those in need.

The gifts were donated to a number of charities providing for children, families in need and the elderly.

Catholic Community Services helped deliver the gifts which general manager Janis Redford said went to people who often had few friends or family to support them at this time of year.

"They receive enormous joy from knowing someone has thought of them," Ms Redford said.

The Tree of Joy concept was adopted after the success of a similar project in the US. The community is invited to select a card from the tree, purchase a gift for the recipient, wrap it and return it to the centre.

Ryde Rotary Club arranged for the gifts to reach those in need in time for Christmas.

The Eastwood Centre, in collaboration with Rotary and local support groups, first erected the Tree of Joy in 1989.

Rotarian Duncan Taylor said the response was so great the tree now took pride of place outside Woolworths in the Eastwood Centre.

It was West Ryde Shopping Centre's second year with a Tree of Joy, and organisers said the response from local residents and shop owners was overwhelming.

*-By work experience student
Louise Goodwin*



Ryde Rotarians Duncan Taylor and Ron Taffa with general manager of Catholic Community Services Janis Redford and gifts from the Eastwood and West Ryde 'trees of joy'.

Chance to share your holiday photos

CUMBERLAND-COURIER
Newspapers are giving you the opportunity to share your summer holiday snaps with the community.

Whether you headed down the coast for a camping holiday, jetted overseas, took the children on a road trip to visit nan and pop or simply had a barbecue in the backyard, we want to see your photos.

We would love to see pics of your children playing on the beach, opening their Christmas presents or of the New Year fireworks over the harbour.

All you need to do is submit photos to our online gallery at northerndistricttimes.com.au

Over the coming weeks we will showcase your submissions in a photo gallery online.

Submitted photos should be in JPG format and no larger than 1Mb.

Entries should include a caption with your name and a brief description of where the photo was taken.