



Tuesday, December 15 2009

SHERIFF ROUNDS UP GIFTS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Newcastle Court staff have amassed a mountain of gifts for struggling families this Christmas, in a drive organised by Sheriff's Officer Todd Barry.

"It is a cause that I feel quite strongly about," Sheriff's Officer Barry said.

"As a Sheriff's Officer my job requires me to deal with families who are often battling financial difficulties, be it a situation that they have taken themselves into or one that is out of their control.

"It breaks my heart to see it affect the children."

Department of Justice and Attorney General staff at the Newcastle Courthouse include registry staff, court officers and uniformed Sheriff's officers.

Members of the judiciary at Newcastle Court also contributed to the gift drive.

The Salvation Army's Court Chaplain Ross Gilmore, who is based at Newcastle Court, received the gifts for distribution.

"There is a significant need for quality toys for distribution to families who are struggling this Christmas," Mr Gilmore said.

"The Salvation Army is greatly encouraged by the support and generosity of the court staff, not only on this occasion but on a continuing basis."

Sheriff's Officer Barry added that "it is Santa who brings the gifts on Christmas Day and hopefully these toys bring a few smiles.

"We'll do it again next year," Sheriff's Officer Barry concluded.