

NEWS

# Ready to share the cheer?

By Mitchell Clarke

With the festive season fast approaching, the team at Windermere is on the hunt for donations to bring some Christmas cheer to people in need.

For over 10 years, the Merry Mission Appeal has been providing gifts and helping hamper to local families doing it tough.

But in these trying times, the organisation has found that families are increasingly turning to them for assistance to find safety from escalating family violence and trauma situations.

With hundreds of local families out of work and struggling to make ends meet, Windermere CEO Dr Lynette Buoy said the need in the community would be greater than ever before.

"This year, more than ever, more families have faced more challenges, they are in desperate need and experiencing crisis like never before," Dr Buoy said.

She added the 2020 appeal had been launched at the end of a year that many would rather forget.

"Even without the aftermath of a pandemic, many people in our community find Christmas to be a particularly tough and lonely time of year," she said.

But it's hoped the community will get behind the Merry Mission Appeal and spread some festive joy by donating to the organisation.

"These are undoubtedly tough times, but together we can keep the magic of Christmas alive and make this festive season that little bit brighter for families in our community who are doing it particularly tough," Dr Buoy added.

"We are so grateful to all our supports, and especially thankful to the Toy Workshop and Marco's IGA for partnering with us to deliver the appeal in a Covid safe manner."

With the pandemic posing its own challenges, this year's drive has been digitalised in line with the need for contactless food and gift deliveries.

To donate to Windermere's 2020 Merry Mission appeal, call 1300 946 337 or visit [windermere.org.au/merry-mission-2020](http://windermere.org.au/merry-mission-2020).



Eric Guthrie from Berwick Woodworkers with Courtney Banks from Windermere. 222669

Pictures: STEWART CHAMBERS



Courtney loads up the toys. 222669



Eric and Bill Bradshaw with the wooden toys. 222669



Brian Crowe from Berwick Woodworkers. 222669

## In their footsteps

By Jessica Anstice

The time of year has come where the winner of the annual Bould-Young Memorial Award is announced for Cardinia Shire.

This year's winner is Kayla Jarenczuk, a Pakenham resident and a Year 10 student at St Francis Xavier College in Beaconsfield.

The award recognises the sacrifices and deeds of Pakenham residents to our nation's freedom.

Harold Bould, one of five brothers from Cardinia, enlisted with the 39th Battalion in 1941 and was sent for garrison duty in Port Moresby.

With the threat of invasion from the north, Harold, together with his B Company, were ordered to walk the Kokoda Track and establish a supply base at Buna, on the north coast, from where the supplies would be shipped, using coastal trading boats.

Unfortunately for Harold and his mates, the Japanese got there first and proceeded south.

Harold's patrol was intercepted, and he was taken prisoner. He was later executed and has no known grave.

This year, Wilma Young's name was added to the award.

Wilma Young (nee Oram), enlisted as a nurse with the Australian Army. She was stationed in Singapore, just prior to the Japanese occupation.

When the nurses were evacuated from Singapore their ship was intercepted near Banka Island and the survivors became POWs for the next five years.

On her release at the end of the war, Wilma returned to Australia and married another former POW, settling in Pakenham District where they raised their family.

Later, she became the first female president of Pakenham RSL, while at the same time working tirelessly to have a memorial for all Australian nurses who died during WWII.



Bould-Young 2020 Memorial Award recipient Kayla Jarenczuk and 39th Battalion Association secretary Malcolm Owen.