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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### A very Larry Christmas

The thought of wrapping 230 Christmas presents is enough to make most people shake in their boots, but it's no big deal to Forster local, Larry Fulton, who buys, wraps and donates hundreds of children's presents every year.

"Lots of people out there are doing it tough, especially after COVID and I like to think I can ease a bit of pain at Christmas," the 70-year-old said.

This year Larry started buying gifts in January and by early December he had amassed 230 presents which he donated to Homebase, a local not-for-profit youth services and outreach program based in Tuncurry.

"I don't spend heaps and I keep my eyes open for good sales at places like K-mart and Big W," he said.

"Every week I try and buy about five or six presents, wrap them and then write on each one the age bracket it suits.

"It's not much but there's always someone out there who needs something and I just thought it would be a nice idea."

Homebase spokesperson Lisa Berry said they're giving out Larry's gifts to children at Playgroup and at Christmas parties, they'll also include some gifts in Christmas hampers for families in need.

"We're grateful for Larry's generosity and for making the spirit of Christmas come true for so many kids," Lisa said.

It's the third year in a row that Larry has bought and donated Christmas gifts. In December 2020 he drove to Batemans Bay on the NSW South Coast and donated 240 presents to the Country Women's Association (CWA) for children who had been affected by the bushfires.

"I didn't grow up with much money but back in my day we used to help each other out more and I like to think this is doing the same thing and bringing some joy to some kids," he said.

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Looking out for others is all in a day's work for Larry. He is employed by local social enterprise Helping Hands, an organisation that provides building and care services to help people live in their own homes for as long as possible.

"Some of my clients are in their 90s and one lady is 100 and they don't always have a lot of family around, so it's important they have people who can provide welfare checks, personal care and fix things around the home," he said.

Larry said some of his older clients could probably do with some Christmas presents too but for now he'd probably stick to buying for children.

"I'd like to keep doing it for many years to come, I think you have to give to be able to receive."

#### **FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT**

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Community Services is based on the NSW Mid North Coast and provides a range of services including Homebase, Great Lakes and Manning Youth Homelessness Service (GLAMYHS), Helping Hands and WasteAid

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