

Broken Hill Christmas Drive - Bringing
Christmas to Aboriginal kids in remote
NSW



Thank you to all who helped to make the Christmas Toy Drive a huge success! I had the pleasure of visiting Broken Hill for a few days to help the Broken Hill Mobile Toy Library distribute the donated toys with my wonderful colleague Kylie Flood from Warawara – Department of Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University. We arrived on the 30th November and departed on the 2nd December 2009. Though a relatively speedy visit we quickly lost count of the number of beautiful smiles we saw on not only the faces of these adorable children, but also on the faces of their parents, grandparents and other family members. It quickly became apparent that this project was not just about toys; but rather an initiative that offered hope, encouraged learning, and was more than anything reciprocal as everyone involved benefited through their involvement. As Jane from the Toy Library said “Everyone has something to offer.” The remarkable women who work tirelessly at the Broken Hill Toy Library are extremely thankful to everyone who has supported this project. These women are an absolute asset to their community in keeping a vital but significantly under-resourced service operating. They have asked me to pass on their sincerest thanks to everyone who has helped out.

I would particularly like to thank our major sponsors:

- **Hi-Trans Express** – for donating the freight for the toys to be transported from Sydney to Broken Hill (special thanks to Damien Davis and Steve Atkins for ensuring that the transportation was seamless).
- **Macquarie University** – with particular mention to the following people/departments:
 - Dr Rebekah Grace
 - Kylie Flood
 - Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Gail Whiteford
 - Naomi Gray
 - Associate Professor Susan Page
 - Warawara – Department of Indigenous Studies
 - Institute of Early Childhood
 - Macquarie Centre for Cognitive Science (MACCS)
 - Marketing Unit
 - Human Resources Unit

Other sponsors who were integral to the success of the toy drive include:

- **Nuss Removals** – for donating the removalist boxes
- **Rose Bay Public School** (special thanks to teacher Sarah Skelton)
- **Hornsby Heights Public School** (special thanks to parent Lisa Limbrick)
- **Gordon East Public School** (special thanks to teacher Lucy Greene)
- **Roselea Student Care Centre** (special thanks to director Karen Schubert)
- **The Scotland Island community** (special thanks to resident Carol Floyd)





Finally, special thanks to all who donated gifts! The children and the toy library are extremely grateful for your generosity. Also, a special thanks to those who helped wrap presents on one of the wrapping days. Particular thanks to the fabulous (and sometimes innovative) wrapping skills of Vanessa Garcia, Sarah Skelton, Brad Knight, Naomi Gray, Kylie Flood, Corrinne Franklin, Duane Hamacher, Bronwen Wade-Leeuwen, Rebekah Grace and Susan Page.

My sincerest apologies if I have forgotten to thank anyone. This project has made a real difference to the community of Broken Hill. For this, I am extremely grateful! Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. May the New Year be full of peace and happiness, and 2010 be absolutely wonderful.

Many, many, many thanks,

Dr Michelle Trudgett.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!