

# BEACON NEWS

## From the Coordinator ...

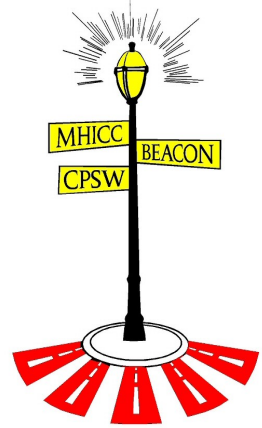
Thank you (once again) to the outstanding generosity of the Mitcham Hills Community, including, schools., churches, community groups and businesses, over 100 people – women, children and men experienced the joy and blessing of Christmas.

In addition, wonderful support was received through the enchanting Christmas Tree Festival staged by the Blackwood Action Group. With "Gratitude" as its theme, the festival, which is staged every two years, consisted of a display of Christmas Trees made and beautifully decorated by local schools and groups; local community groups selling a range of hand-made Christmas decorations; Santa and a Giving Tree. Local businesses also supported the event in a variety of ways. As a result of being selected as a benefactor of the festival along with Treasure Boxes, Beacon received hundreds of gifts kindly placed under the Christmas Tree which meant that dozens of children woke up to a lovely surprise on Christmas morning.

The enormous amount of donations, consisting of food, gifts and toys received by Beacon made it possible for 40 Christmas Hampers to be packed and distributed by Beacon volunteers and others who came to assist us. All the Hampers along with accompanying gifts were distributed on our last day of operation, 15th December.

A very special "Thank you" goes to the wonderful Beacon volunteers and others who were recruited to assist us for all their hard work, sorting and packing, wrapping gifts at the Christmas Tree Festival and providing transport for clients to take the very heavy Christmas Hampers home.

*Pamela Howells & Jenny Horne*



*Local Churches working together to help Local People*

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## Donations

We welcome and need to have donations coming in to support our work throughout the year. There are certain foods we associate with Christmas, 'treats' we all enjoy and look forward to receiving.

Beacon clients are also in need of good nutritious, non-perishable, foods to support good health and sustain them. These include tinned meat and fish, tinned vegetables and fruit; everyone also appreciates cleaning products.

For reasons of health and safety Beacon has a policy of only giving out food within date. If you are cleaning out grandma's cupboard and are thinking of Beacon please check the "Use by" and "Best before" dates.



## Covid

We had hoped this situation would improve but we are back to restrictions and masks. All those who come to see us must check in and wear masks. The policy is essentially "no mask no entry". At present we are providing clients with pre- packed bags of food instead of allowing them to choose items in the pantry.

These restrictions did not prevent the year starting with a "bang"; on the day we opened (19<sup>th</sup> January) 10 people came to request assistance.



## Local Businesses

There are several local organisations who have provided us with ongoing support, and we are hugely grateful. I would like to acknowledge the following organisations and businesses:

"The Blackwood Times" whose regular articles supporting Beacon have been instrumental in raising awareness of Beacon and the work we do.

Drakes Supermarket who has provided us with invaluable support through the Community Dollar scheme for many years (we have the tags if you would like to call in and collect some).



Blackwood Rotary Club has been a wonderful contributor to Beacon's work over many years.



Blackwood Rotary Club members & donations



St John's Receptions with donations