

Packages for the Homeless

by Helen Taylor

Taree congregation was filled with excitement as persons from around the Mid North Coast gathered for an Area Day on Sunday 15 October 2023. The hall echoed with joy as we chatted over lunch meeting new and old friends.

The roof of the chapel seemed to expand when we gathered for worship and sang our praises to God. Oh, how we love to sing! Wendy Ballard, Area Coordinator, guided us through the service with the theme Blessings of Community.

Ruth Walshe, Taree pastor, shared the Missional Story in preparation for the Disciples Generous Response (DGR). The invitation had previously been circulated to bring toiletry items to donate to homeless persons in the Taree area. During the DGR, everyone was invited to come forward and place their toiletry items on the designated table area. Persons unable to have purchased items prior to the service were invited to give a financial contribution which then enabled Ruth's

'angels' to purchase other needed items.

The response was nothing short of amazing. Persons were eager to give of their donations (toiletry items or monetary donations) and from all that was given we were able to create 40 packages for distribution to homeless persons in Taree. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making a difference in someone else's life. The packages were received amidst tears and statements of 'I didn't think anyone cared'.

Several Enduring Principles came alive in this Missional Story: Grace and Generosity, Persons of Worth, Responsible Choices and Blessings of Community. And the words of the Missional Prayer continue to challenge us: God, where will your Spirit lead us today?

Helen Taylor
On behalf of Taree congregation

