



Downs & West Community Support

a ministry of Sisters of Charity Community Care Ltd

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Media Release

7th August 17

Nun in the Bush

Whoever said that Nuns should stay close to their convents? Are there even any nuns left?

Whoever it was didn't tell the Sisters of Charity and in particular Sr Christine Henry rsc because she has spent the last **10 years** supporting country people through the worst drought in over 100 years 2007 and then the floods, climate changes and other problems beyond their control.

Country and City supporters will gather at St Finbarr's Hall, Betheden Tce, Ashgrove on September 2, at 10.30am. Donors and Volunteers, those who organised fund raising events will be thanked and receive Certificates to acknowledge their significant contribution.

Sr Christine is the Coordinator of the Downs & West Community Support and she has been serving the Farming Communities including small businesses on the Downs, the Burnett, the Lockyer Valley and South-West Queensland.

Sr Christine's own country roots made her the natural leader. She became a conduit between City and Country. She would not ask anyone to do what she was not prepared to do herself. Sr Christine raised up natural leaders in various towns to be where she could not be. Nobody was to be overlooked.

Practical support was given to all in need to help them over or through the problems they were facing. Telstra vouchers, petrol vouchers, a tyre for a tractor, backyard blitz, mini renovations, house cleaning, a new front gate, a new bed, food hampers, Christmas hampers with gifts for all and special food for the Season. These hampers were valued at over \$1mil.

Sr Christine, a Registered Nurse has been driving a station wagon provided by St Vincent's Health Australia and a reconditioned ambulance for part of 950,000km. Her companion is a security dog, Kenya, a toy poodle.

The men enjoyed their "Bugger the Drought" nights, but our major focus is on families, children and women. Thousands of women (5,258) attended 113 Wellness days requiring 4,221 volunteer hours. Women's health issues were given priority because so often the women were holding the families together. Pap Smears, Mammograms, Psychology and Motivational talks. Looking out for families who lost a family member to suicide, death of a child, Mums or Dads. Counselling and Cleaners, regular visits, people not forgotten.

Media contact: Sr Christine Henry 0414 324 682

2 pages of statistics attached, 1 photo

ends

