

MEDIA RELEASE

Three compassionate local women are extending their generosity to assist hundreds in the community.

DATE

Monday 13 November 2023

NOT ALL SUPERHEROES WEAR CAPES

In a world where acts of kindness often go unnoticed, three exceptional community members have been quietly making a profound impact in the Portland & district community for years.

Margaret Groves, Barbara Kidman, and Margaret Perrett, lovingly referred to themselves as the "MBM" have been gathering weekly on Thursdays to create positive change in the Glenelg community.

These remarkable women have dedicated their time and efforts to support various local organisations and initiatives in order to assist the needy and vulnerable, including the Salvation Army, Mission for Seamen, Heywood Rural Health, St. John's Primary School, Samaritan's Purse, Portland District Health, Heywood Lions Club, Heywood Bowling Club, and now, United Way Glenelg.

The ladies have displayed an unwavering commitment to crafting items that provide comfort and solace to those in need or those who are lonely. Their handcrafted creations include dolls' clothes, stuffed toys, blankets, knee rugs, bags, care packages, and their beloved Huggy Bear teddies. These items have brought warmth and smiles to countless individuals in the community.

Barbara Kidman, one of the founding members of Portland Neighbourhood House, emphasised that if you have the means to assist, it's important to do so.

"I urge everyone to lend a hand to at least one person in their lifetime. Something as simple as mowing the lawn for an elderly neighbour can make a significant difference."

All 3 ladies met through Neighbourhood House and have since formed a wonderful supportive friendship group.

United Way Glenelg is honoured to now be included in their list of organisations they wish to support.

Thanks to their generosity, Christmas hampers will be distributed to elderly residents in aged care facilities throughout the Glenelg Shire community, bringing joy and smiles to those who may not have family nearby.

"Countless community members are silently lending a hand in ways we may never discover. While the ladies were initially hesitant to share their story, they are willing to do so if it inspires others to offer their assistance."

"Their weekly gatherings are a testament to the power of community, compassion, and just humble generosity," said Executive Officer Nicole Carr.

"Their dedication and selflessness serve as an inspiration to all," concluded Ms Carr.

The ladies have already started working on items for Christmas Hampers in 2024 and are always looking for donations to assist them in their endeavours. Old calendars, cards, small shampoo & conditioners, soaps, face washers, small tissues, material, wool, ladies' hankies, small toys, jewellery, notepads, storybooks, colouring books, pencils & pens wrapping paper. If you're able to assist please contact United Way Glenelg on 0410 513 305.

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