

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SEVENOAK'S SANTA'S WORKSHOP IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS**

This is one Santa's workshop with a difference. . It is at a high school in Cannington, The Sevenoaks College. Although at first glance it may seem a strange partnership, the school and Santa's workshop have great synergies - the volunteers, all retirees, bring their experience and wisdom in working and mentoring with some of the students in areas of manual arts, restoration and recycling, and the project will give the school and its students a community support focus on site.

The Santa's workshop does a Christmas program which will distribute Christmas presents to a wide variety of non profit organisations who in turn pass them onto members of the community who are in need, and these families will be from all over the state.

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in doing any of the following:

Locating donations,  
picking up donations  
Cleaning / fixing up toys and presents  
making wooden toys

Anyone who might be interested can contact the workshop on 9356 4928

#### **What is Sevenoaks Santa's Workshop**

Santa's Workshop is a group of people who work towards helping severely disadvantaged families and children by providing toys, household goods, clothes and other items as they come to hand.

The Santa's Workshop project was initially launched by Curtin Radio (Curtin University of Technology) in 1999 in support of Outcare, to provide toys for the families of prisoners at Christmas time.

The project is run by an established group of volunteers that has a volunteer coordinator and management group. Now sponsored by Outcare, it previously had the management support of Pieta O'Shaughnessy, who was the Community Projects Coordinator, Curtin University and 6NR Curtin Radio promoted it.

Curtin Radio has now become Curtin FM and with a refocus on its core business, Outcare was asked to take on the project and financial management role and Curtin FM has retained the promotion role for the project.

Over the past years Santa's Workshop has grown significantly. For Christmas 2001, it supplied approximately 6 tonnes of new and refurbished toys to Outcare; Parkerville Children's Home; Wongatha Wongatharra Community at Laverton; and a collection of children housed in women's refuges across the Perth metropolitan area. In addition to Christmas cheer, Santa's Workshop provided 67 boxes of clothes and household goods to

the Wongatha Wongatharra Community at Laverton, as well as ongoing support throughout the year to women's refuges, and assisting Parkerville, the Domestic Violence Centre and Nyandi prison in setting up permanent play areas for child residents and visitors.

The operations in the 2002 & 2003 years were a little less due to the lack of suitable accommodation while having to shift between another 2 locations.

The establishment of a permanent base at Sevenoaks Senior College will see the workshop really take off without the distraction of storage and moving problems and will also see it become a productive part of the college community.