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# Community to Honour Our Invisible Contributors (Continued from Page 1)

feeling, emotion, and action, the reality of our humanness whether on the fringes or not.

The project started last year with a bequest from a disability pensioner, who had lived with paranoid schizophrenia in public housing and who felt largely invisible in his own sizeable community. His dream was simply to open our minds to the contribution that the marginalised do offer.

Our financial partners are Central Coast Council and the Minister for Health/DHHS with additional donations from three local politicians.

However, it is our dozen vendors giving us huge discounts that has allowed us to complete the project. As Friends of the Penguin General Cemetery we simply managed the project.

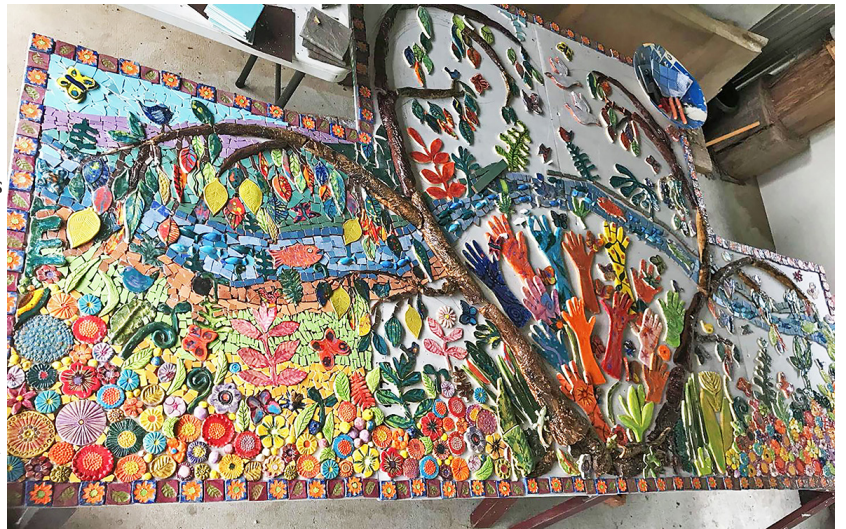
Its installation resides with council.

The artwork will be ready just in time for the ABC's Back Roads TV series, which will be filming early February showcasing Penguin as a kind and inclusive place to live.

As one commentator said of the project: To me it's about all the complicated things humans deal with on a daily basis. You never know what someone else is going through so it's best not to judge.

You can follow this story on our Facebook page: Penguin General Cemetery.

We are thankful to so many people for the love they have bestowed on this project: Central Coast Council, the Minister



**ABOVE:** *The front is a 3-D tactile nature-scene mosaic by Christianne Goss the Reverse is the Word Jumble featured on Page 1*

for Health/DHHS, Christianne Goss, D-signs & Promotional, Ullrich Aluminium Pty Ltd, Steve Bramich, Grand Pacific Industrial Pty Ltd, Valmont Coatings Tasmania, James Hardie Australia Pty Ltd, Brierley Consulting Engineers, Bell Bay Aluminium, Property Services (Parks), Jeremy Rockliff, Justine Keay, Leonie Hiscutt, The Advocate, ABC Northern Tasmania, The Mercury, The Central Coast Voice, and our dear community members who have guided and sustained the project's energy.

## A CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN FOR SANTA

I have a relative who does not believe that God exists. Perhaps the majority these days would agree with him. However, in this case there is an interesting related fact. While his wealthy parents were insistent as to the non-existence of God, they had little difficulty in convincing him as to the existence of Santa Claus. From infancy there had been clear evidence of his annual nocturnal visits from the substantial addition of presents beneath the Christmas tree when he awoke. This conviction continued into his adolescence, until a cousin who believed in the real Christmas story blew the parents cover and was able to convince him that Santa Claus was a phoney.

Of course he was disappointed but not for long - the presents kept coming regardless; and now the cat was out of the bag, he could actually order what he wanted for Christmas. It was a straight-forward arrangement, no surprises or anything to get excited about.

However, it is pretty clear that all of us are supposed to get very excited at the prospect of Christmas. We are exhorted, day after day from early October, to prepare ourselves for it. Phoney or not, Santa keeps appearing all over the place, often with his team to encourage us. Some advertisers this year are even keen that we should take thought for his reindeer and have carrots ready in case of a Christmas Eve stopover. But why is Santa so important? In a word: because he brings presents.

Now here I need to make an important distinction. A phoney Christmas is about presents. A real Christmas is about giving and receiving gifts. We may spend a lot of time and money buying, wrapping, and delivering presents, but the essential ingredient that makes for a gift is often missing - the deeply personal and conscious transfer of love from within us to another which transforms whatever we give. That is the real cost to us, not the shop's price tag.

This brings us to the very heart of Christmas itself: God's costliest gift of Himself, His personal transfer to the human race in Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem. Stop for a moment and ponder this breath-taking miracle of transformation: God with us, as one of us, the Infant Christ reaching out His tiny hand to us; bringing light and joy into our darkened, divided, and increasingly anxious world. He is the Gift that never disappoints; unwrapping His peace and self-sending love into our hearts and minds. Take Him into your homes this Christmas, share Him with others, indeed, become His gift of yourself to them. If you do so, I can assure you that Christmas will no longer be just an annual event, but an enriching way of being more truly human and more fully yourself.

May the Blessing of the Christ Child be with us at Christmas and in the coming Year of Grace.

Bishop David Roberts OAM of The Traditional Anglican Communion.