



Y Service Club of Canberra

The Canberra Club's journey - Drought and Bushfire through to COVID-19

While the nation has been going through the tough days of drought and bushfire of late 2019 and pandemic from early 2020, the Y' Service fellowship in Canberra is finding its true sense and purpose of contributing back to the Community.

In late 2019 the Club made a commitment to support drought affected people and raise resources through a special Christmas Appeal. The Club contributed to the *Ladies of the Land NSW*, an initiative of some great minds came together through social media. This initiative led by a group of women, collected gifts for mothers and other needy women in the drought affected regions of the nation. This initiative was in recognition of the women worked hard to make their loved ones' lives beautiful amidst extreme difficulties buying gifts for their families, but often were forgotten to be honoured. The Club members handpicked and packed 50 Christmas gifts for those forgotten mothers in drought affected communities. The gifts' aggregate value of around \$2,000 individually sourced by the members were handed over the Ladies of the Land group representative in Canberra.



Club Members handing over the gifts to the Ladies of the Land group representative: Members in photos: Mrs Dayana Jose, Mrs Krisha Jilson, Mr Jacob Vadakkedathu, Mr Sebastian Mathew, Mr Rohith Radhakrishnan, Mr Joseph George.

The Club continued to meet on Zoom since the COVID-19 restrictions commenced in March 2020 until the restrictions eased in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in August 2020. The Club made several significant contributions to the Communities around us during the peak of the pandemic.

Key contributions include:

- Continued efforts for the *'Feed the Needy'* program of the Club in association with the St Benedict House in Queanbeyan NSW, on the fringes of ACT. During the period of restrictions, the Club members prepared food boxed in their own homes and the Club coordinated supply of 100 plus of these food boxes for the homeless from time to time.



- The Club raised funds to support disadvantaged children in the State of Kerala, India who were struggling to attend online classes since the beginning of the COVID restrictions in India. The Club sourced smart TVs from large wholesale operators to maximise the value and collaborated with non-governmental organisation called Learn 2 Live Student Police Cadet Project based in rural regions in northern Kerala overseen by senior officials of the Kerala State Police Department. The Club supported around 260 disadvantaged students through this initiative.



Since the restrictions eased in July 2020 in ACT and surrounding regions the Club has been pursuing its *'Feed the Needy'* program quite effectively with regular monthly serving sessions at the St Benedict's

Home at Queanbeyan NSW. Currently due to restrictions, only around 16 people are served inside the home with additional 40-50 disadvantaged people receive freshly made food boxes outside the home.



July 2020 Service members ready to serve



September 2020 Service Session

2020 concluded with a fun-filled Christmas BBQ on 13 December 2020 attended by over 80 members and families.



