



Appendix II

Kaikoura Christmas Deliveries Log

One special morning before Christmas, the team of Miss Lilly's Angels were all up well before 3am. It was an early start to sprinkle our angel dust throughout the Kaikoura region and a mission we were incredibly excited to be a part of.

We left our Rangiora home in convoy at 3am with a Heller's truck packed full of hams, bacon and sausages, as well as two fully loaded 4-wheel drives and a horse float. Taking the long inland road to Kaikoura to was the only option our vehicle convoy had to get there.

I was lucky enough to fly up to Kaikoura with Christchurch Helicopters, together with Richie McCaw, Rob, Richie co-pilot and Mike Thorpe from Seven Sharp. Mike was there to document our day for TV and Richie and Rob were my support crew, or support angels as I like to call them.

We arrived at the Kaikoura Racecourse at 9am.

Our very first delivery was to Pam Edgar who lost her homestead and her husband during the November earthquakes. All she has left was the PJ's she survived in. We had been sending her family care packages right from the first Monday after the quakes thanks to Christchurch Helicopters and Rangiora Aerodrome. Pam wasn't expecting us, and it was so lovely to bring Christmas cheer to such a deserving woman. Pam's story touched me right from the moment I heard about it and because of everything, I feel very connected to her.

While in town, my Angels and I also delivered Christmas packages to twenty families we knew were struggling. We were so lucky to have wonderful angels donate products we could give to these families. Each package contained pork donated by Patoa farms which Heller's had cured into ham, Kiwi bacon, sausages, Whittaker's chocolate, gift vouchers, Christmas puddings, Nestle reduced cream and onion soup, Sampler biscuits and other food items. We also gave out Christmas presents, clothing donated by Postie Plus, as well as many gifts for children and mums which had been collected by Rotary Rangiora and Coco Gifts in Christchurch.

We delivered Christmas cheer to the hospital and the nurses with some more Christmas packages. We gave Plunket nappies, Baby Cue books, Doidy Cups, baby clothing and other Christmas presents. The Kaikoura Lions received a camera and a printer from Canon and we piled presents under the library Christmas tree to be distributed on another day. We gave PGG and the council a morning tea compliments of Rangiora Bakery. All up, we delivered Christmas packages to over 30 families, showing that Canterbury and the rest of New Zealand had not forgotten about them.

Next it was time to sprinkle some angel dust throughout the streets of Kaikoura.

Miss Lilly's Angel Trust

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My Angels headed out to chat with anyone they could see, bringing comfort and reassurance wherever they went. I headed over to the Awatere Valley via helicopter where together with Richie, Rob and Mike, we met six families who have been cut off since the quake.

We were lucky enough to receive a good old farm morning tea, cuppa and a quick chat before we flew onto Clarence to meet another couple whose house had a hill side split behind them. She said she wasn't sure if it was the sea or the hill she could hear as the noise was frightening. I can't imagine how she felt, in that moment.

Then it was back to Kaikoura where I joined my Angels on their ground mission. My husband continued the last air mission to Lynford station where Rachel Bartrum's homestead was bugged. After a quick refuel, the air team headed inland to Culverden to the Mc Kenzie's at Montrose station.

I returned to Christchurch by car on the newly opened coast road. As I drove the road with my Angels, I had an enormous bag of mixed emotions. Seeing for myself the new Kaikoura and comparing to my memories, knowing that this is the new reality, it was dreadfully hard.

Seeing the man at the petrol station serving you fighting back tears when you ask him how things are going. Knowing that he is just telling you that things are alright because he thinks that is what you want to hear. But things are not alright and won't be for a very, very long time.

Visiting the Kaikoura hospital to see the Oaklands School pictures on the wall, along with the Christmas cards, brought a smile to our faces.

Kate, the woman at the Lobster Tavern whose bar was empty. She still had smiles and offers to help us, even though we could not bring back the patronage of her bar.

People reading our Christmas cards and messages, wiping a tear from the corner of their eye as they realise people do care about them.

We stopped people on the road and knocked on the doors of people who didn't know we were coming. I learnt from all of this is that it's not about the gift you are giving, or the parcel. It's the fact you cared enough to knock on their door, check if they are okay and give them a hug if they wanted one.

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