



## What's New

## NEWSROOM

A LITTLE GOODWILL GOES A LONG WAY

08/12/03 Stuart Silver

### **The annual Exodus Foundation's free Christmas day lunch and food hamper deliveries for Sydney's disadvantaged will go ahead this year, thanks to the support of Dairy Farmers.**

The charity was faced with a dilemma last month, when, after reading about Dairy Farmers' milk crate recovery program, they realized that 1,000 milk crates used for storing and delivering their essential food supplies and Christmas gifts, in fact belonged to the farmer owned co-operative.

"When we realized the crates belonged to Dairy Farmers and it was the farmers themselves that were covering the replacement costs, we knew the crates needed to be returned. Our concern however was that without them, our food storage and delivery system would be under enormous stress," said Reverend Bill Crews, founder of Exodus Foundation.

After learning about the charity's dilemma, Dairy Farmers immediately took action to assist and approached their manufacturers to produce 1,000 special yellow crates clearly marked, 'property of the Exodus Foundation'.

Dairy Farmers Group External and Government Affairs Manager, Stuart Silver said the co-operative was extremely grateful to the Exodus Foundation for returning the crates and that it was this kind of support that would assist in retrieving some of the 700,000 milk crates that go missing in NSW every year.

"We are pleased to be able to show our gratitude and hope the donation of these purpose built crates will go a long way towards spreading cheer and goodwill to people in need this Christmas," said Mr. Silver.

Reverend Crews said the Exodus Foundation was expecting over 3,000 people to come and share in the food, fun and festivities at the annual "Free Hot Christmas Lunch" to be held once again in the grounds of the Ashfield Uniting Church, 180 Liverpool Road, Ashfield from 11.30am to 3pm.

"We rely on donations to make Christmas special for Sydney's poor, needy and lonely and without assistance from companies like Dairy Farmers our work could not continue," said Reverend Crews.

Dairy Farmers is urging other companies to get behind the Exodus Foundation and lend them a hand this Christmas. "The Exodus Foundation urgently needs donations of tinned hams, Christmas cakes, puddings, biscuits, tea bags, tinned fruit, sweets and nuts. They also need unwrapped new presents to distribute to both children and adults," said Mr. Silver.

Anyone interested in donating their time, gifts or food should contact the Exodus Foundation on 02 9799 2811.

To return milk crates, people should contact Dairy Farmers' special telephone hotline number - 1800 883 534 or send an email to [milkcrates@dairyfarmers.com.au](mailto:milkcrates@dairyfarmers.com.au). Dairy Farmers will then arrange for these crates to be picked up.

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