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for immediate release

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YAMBA'S SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

Three young children from Moree will see the ocean for the first time in their lives thanks to a Christmas gift from Yamba businesses.

Although it's been a tough year for the Swan family from the Moree Plains region there is a little light shining through in the form of seaside holiday invitation courtesy of Yamba's Chamber of Commerce and Yamba Rotary. Thelma Swan nursed her husband Lou, a respected community elder, at home until his passing recently even though she too has very serious health issues. Thelma will be joined on holiday by her daughter Rhonda, a volunteer just like her parents at the Salvation Army Family Store, as well as family member Naomi and her three children. For the three children, this will be their first opportunity to swim in the ocean. Tania Williams, President of the Yamba Chamber of Commerce, adds "they may even decide to take advantage of the free surf lessons on offer. Business participation has ensured the family will have accommodation, meals, and limousine transport. The family will also be able to select from a number of activities and will have other treats included throughout the week."

The Yamba Chamber of Commerce has developed this program because it values caring, sharing and giving in the real spirit of Christmas. Along with Yamba Rotary it recognises that although Yamba plays host to many holiday visitors, there are some families who could really do with a break but, for a myriad of reasons, won't get to visit this beautiful town this year. Therefore, it was agreed to invite one such deserving family this Christmas which hopefully will set in place a model which can work every year.

Businesses directly involved with the program include Big4 Clarence Coast Resort, Fletchers Fotographics, Dux Limos, Friendly Grocer Yamba, Rosehip Flowers & Gifts, Yamba Pharmacy, Maclean District Kennels & Cattery, Beachside Pty Ltd, PRD Nationwide, New Era Women, Yamba Angourie Surf School and SPAR Yamba. The Chamber is covering out of pocket expenses for business involvement. The opportunity for further participation is still open.

If you would like further information, please contact Tania Williams, c/- of Fletchers Fotographics, yamba@fletchers.com.au (02) 66461983