

Thursday November 6, 2014

Cards helping charities

By **BRENDAN CRABB**

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The Charity Christmas Card Shop will mark 45 years this year. Pictured are Heidi Smith, Daphne Morris, Bill Morris and Vicki Robb. Picture: GEORGIA MATTS

TEXT messages and emails may be the way today, but the Kiama Red Cross believes the community still love exchanging old-fashioned Christmas cards.

The Combined Charity Christmas Card Shop will mark its 45th year of operation when it opens its doors in Kiama on Wednesday, November 12.

The grand opening will be hosted by Mayor Brian Petschler on Thursday, November 13, at 11am, although cards will be on-sale from the Wednesday.

Heidi Smith, Combined Charities Card Shop co-chairperson and vice-president of Kiama branch of the Australian Red Cross, said the card shop is an opportunity for members of the public to purchase an array of Christmas cards, while supporting a variety of charities.

The profits raised will be distributed to the following charities: Save the Children, Australian Red Cross, Children's Medical Research Institute, Cystic Fibrosis, Frontier Services, Leprosy Mission, Bible Society and St Vincent de Paul.

The event is run by all of the charities involved.

"Kiama is really excellent in supporting the Red Cross and all of the charities," Mrs Smith said.

"We wouldn't be able to run it if the community weren't supportive.

"We really appreciate the effort everyone makes in giving to the shop. It really does make a difference to the charities."

The number of cards sold annually were in the thousands, she said.

"It's a nice way of the various charities getting together and supporting one another, and we share in the proceeds at the end."

The card shop is staffed by volunteers from each charity and the Kiama Presbyterian Church.

The shop is supported by Kiama Council and will be open on weekdays from Wednesday until Friday, December 5, at the Old Council Building, Manning Street, Kiama, from 10am-4pm daily.