

Kiama Independent

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See one of Gerringong's best Christmas light displays



Hayley Warden



A Gerringong family, which has been lighting up the street and people's faces for 17 years, has turned their Christmas light display into an annual fundraiser for local charity.

After starting with a small selection of fairy lights, a decade ago Alice and Greg Ball began the task of including an intricate window display.

"It continues to grow each year with a little something new added that the kids can relate to," Mrs Ball said.

"Just knowing what we do lights up so many people's faces and lives is rewarding enough for us."

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Last year, the pair decided to raise money for the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) Gerringong group.

“We chose this charity as we hold it close to our hearts. The charity and their members work endlessly trying to raise money for children's cancer research,” Mrs Ball said.

“So if our Christmas display can help them achieve this, we are very happy to help.”

The huge light, window and front yard display takes the Balls about three weeks to set up prior to Christmas.

“We make a few adjustments and try to add something new each year,” Mrs Ball said.

“Last year we added the animated elves which are around 30-years-old. This year we have two trains running plus a few little extras.”

The inspiration for the yearly bonanza, came after Mrs Ball lost both her parents around Christmas time.

“They always made Christmas so special, especially with our family gathering,” Mrs Ball said.

“When I lost them both, we had two small children and I wanted to keep that Christmas spirit alive, so my Mum and Dad laid the foundations for Greg and I to build upon, so we did.

“Being big kids helps, which we both are. Plus having children of our own and now grandchildren too inspires us and keeps the Christmas magic going, not to mention all the big kids and little kids who come and visit.

“We listen to our grandchildren's input and try to make it a reality. Hence, why we have two trains in our display going in opposite directions this year.”

You can visit the magnificent Christmas light display at 23 Croft Place, Gerringong and make a donation to CMRI Gerringong.

See full story: <https://www.kiamaindependent.com.au/story/5108729/see-one-of-gerringongs-best-christmas-light-displays/>