

Christmas wish miracle for Val



Above: Val Bromiley, 91, with one of the presents

Left: Dennis Stevenson outside his Christmas store

● Pictures: Brendan Radke

by Kerryn Anker

VAL Bromiley, 91, prayed for a Christmas miracle – she wanted to spread some festive cheer to her loved ones but she was unable to leave the house to buy gifts.

The Gold Coaster couldn't believe her eyes yesterday when a crowd of people began gathering outside her house, waiting to grab a free gift from her neighbour Dennis Stevenson's new Christmas store.

Mr Stevenson was spreading the cheer yesterday, distributing free gifts over three days.

Mrs Bromiley said she was delighted to be able to walk across the road and find a bundle of toys for family and friends at Mr Stevenson's store.

"I have two little girls who brought me a Christmas present and I wanted to be able to give them something," she said.

"I haven't been able to leave the house and go to the shops to buy presents.

"I've lived here for 54 years. How convenient to have this store across the road.

"I prayed to God and then I saw the store today."

Mr Stevenson said the real meaning of Christmas was about giving, not receiving.

He said he had donated items from his own house as well as donations from other members of the community.

"I thought, 'let's give everything away' and it's been a wonderful time," he said.

"Mostly we started off with my

things and then people started donating. "We are open every day up until Christmas Eve and we are open until dark.

"It took three weeks to get this store – I just kept going until I found one."

Mr Stevenson said he enjoyed giving to those in need, allowing people to give gifts without paying for them.

He said the store featured kitchen goods, toys, videos, electrical goods, Christmas trees and clothes.

He said he welcomed donations to the Deodar Drive store in Burleigh Heads, in order to keep on giving.

Burleigh Heads resident Jade Applegate, 8, said she found some teddy bears she was going to give to her siblings.