

CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION ON DISPLAY IN HORSHAM

Three collectors have brought more than five hundred nativity scenes from around the world to showcase a display in Horsham. The collection was open to the public at the Ss Michael and John Parish Centre from December 5 - 8.

Fiona Tonkin, Kay Paton and Fr Andrew Hayes from the Ballarat Diocese have contributed their Christmas cribs to the display. Mrs Paton said her collection started when she purchased a family nativity display. Now she has one hundred and ninety Christmas cribs.

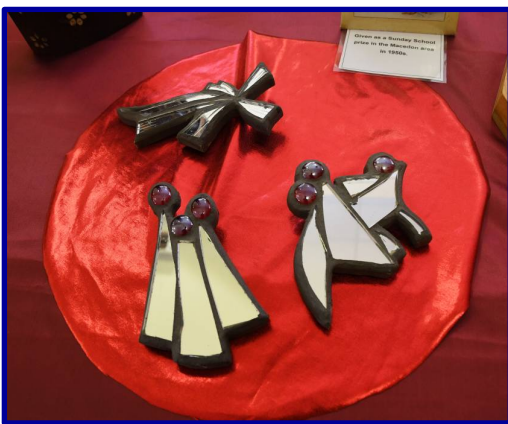
Ms Tonkin said the set-up took about seven hours to complete with the display divided into continents, cribs constructed by children and unique displays. She said highlights of the collection include miniature cribs, nativity scenes made by refugees, a crib made out of a bullet by a World War II soldier, a nativity scene made out of chip packets and coins dating back to the time of the birth of Christ.

"Quite a few of the cribs on display are made from recycled items," she said. "It just shows the ingenuity of how much you can do when you only have a little (bit of money)."

Article courtesy of the Wimmera Mail-Times and text by Eliza Berlage

Above: Fiona Tonkin and Kay Paton with their favourite items from the display - a pregnant Mary and a nativity scene made out of wool from Bethlehem sheep.





1. A nativity scene made out of tin from Mexico
2. Coins dating back to the time of the birth of Jesus under a magnifying glass.
3. A Nativity scene made by Indigenous Australians depicts baby Jesus without Mary because the Earth is the mother.
4. A Nativity scene made in a township in Cape Town, South Africa.
5. Fragments from a church damaged by an earthquake in Christchurch was turned into these Christmas ornaments.
6. A Nativity scene from Zambia.
7. This Nativity Scene was made using bullets from an AK-47 from Liberia, Africa.
8. A Nativity scene made out of recycled materials from the Philippines.
9. Two felt grottos made from wool from sheep in Bethlehem.
10. A Nativity scene made of alabaster from Meteora, Greece.