



# Collector thanks locals

KRISTY MORONEY

Les Barrett a 75 year-old local collector for the Adventist Disaster Relief Agency [ADRA] has been very impressed with the generosity of people and businesses from the Midland, Bellevue, Stratton, Midvale and Mundaring Industrial areas.

Mr Barrett has been collecting funds for ADRA for the past 40 years and said he wanted to thank everybody who took the time to chat and donate to the ADRA cause.

"Collecting in this area has been very rewarding, I have met many people who have been helped or have been helpers of the global charity," Mr Barrett said.

ADRA provides disaster relief and helps some of the world's poorest people and children get the basics for survival.

"I believe ADRA is a very honest charity that puts funds and resources into the hands of people who really need it," he said.

"I don't actually like 'begging' on foot but the local people's generosity has made my job very rewarding. Some people may

start off by saying; "look mate, we have people in here all the time looking for money", but once I say where I am from people start to listen," Mr Barrett said.

Mr Barrett said he does not like to tell people how much to give, he lets them give what they can.

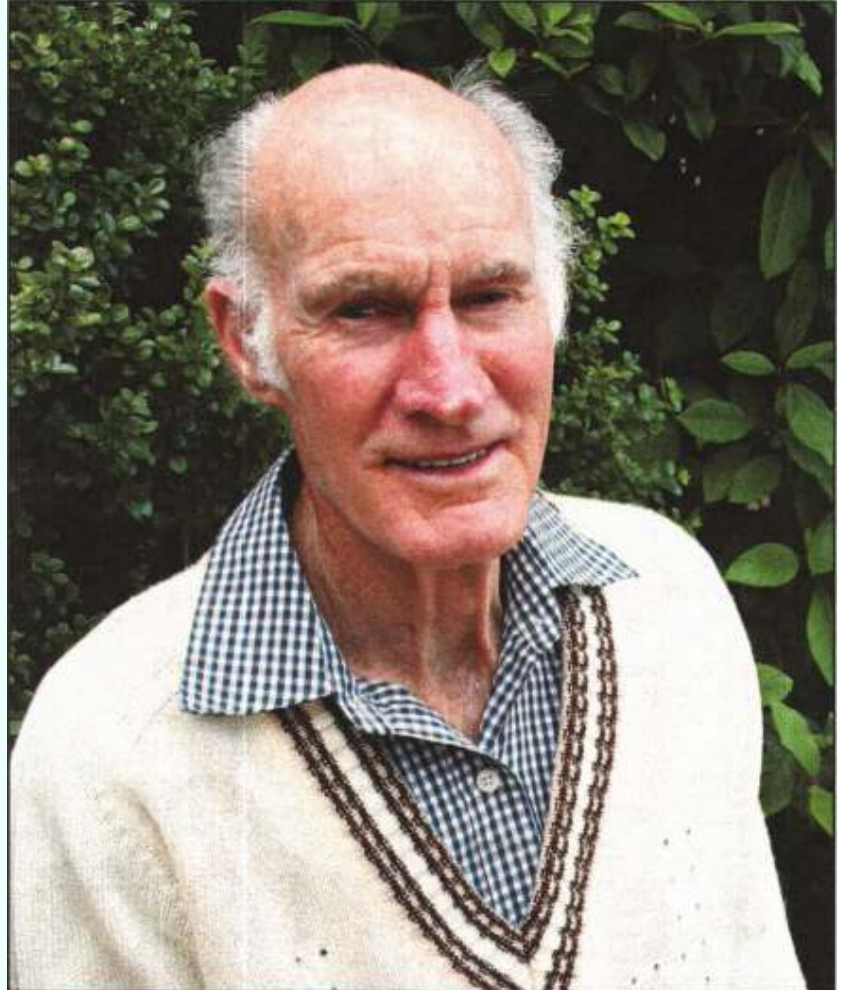
"I have had people give me as little as 50 cents to as much as \$50 or \$100. "Others snarl and say get lost," he laughed.

This conscientious collector has personally raised over \$2,000 this year alone for ADRA.

"I know that I am making a difference to some very disadvantaged children. I love hearing about the good that comes from funds like the enormous amount of work ADRA did with Cyclone Tracey and more recently the Indonesian Tsunami," Mr Barrett said.

Mr Barrett does not receive any payment for his extraordinary dedication but said knowing what comes out of his time makes it all worth it.

"My collecting actually costs me in fuel, but I don't mind, it's for an extraordinary charity."



Les Barrett has been a collector for ADRA for the past 40 years  
Photograph by Kristy Moroney