



**Moya Monks** (76) recalls wonderful Christmases as a child in the Rhonda Valley in Wales. “We would sing songs around the piano and play games – it was a wonderful time, everyone was happy and my parents didn’t seem stressed at all. When I was four my father made me a sledge to slide down the snowy hills. One year my sister and I got a beautiful furry orange hat and matching scarf, but the best present I ever got was a doll with a pram and a cot – they were second hand, but as far as I was concerned, they were just the best.”



While Moya had 22 dolls at the age of 10, her friend **Peggy Henderson** was experiencing very different Christmases in County Tyrone in Ireland. “I was one of 11 children and didn’t have a doll at all. So, I made a doll by taking a brick with one side painted white and wrapping it up. We made our own games and toys, out of sticks and corned beef tins. There were never any presents at Christmas but we got an orange, an apple and a handkerchief.”



**Massey Hiku:** “Christmas was different in Maori families, who had different ways of doing things. Presents weren’t of consequence but my mother, Kirimatao, made sure Christmas was always good. She was widowed twice and brought up seven kids, including me - a late addition. My dad died when I was nine and mum slaved to keep us going, working in market gardens at Mauku. Good food was very important and she was good at making meals out of nothing. In that era, a lot of people went without to give to others. When I was young, I didn’t see how hard it was for her, but now I know I was fortunate to have such a wonderful mother. I probably now spoil my family, but when I had children I said I could never see them go without.”

## and Christmas present ...

Christmas through the eyes of little ones – Franklin eLocal asked 3 and 4 year olds what was their best ever Christmas present, and what they liked best about Christmas...



**Luke Gill** (3) “My best ever present was a train set, but I like racecars too. The best thing at Christmas is Santa Claus.”



**Jeffery Tolmie** (3) “The best thing is Santa giving me a present and getting the Christmas tree out. The best Christmas Santa gave me was an aeroplane.”



**Cody Whiteman** (4) “The best present was a fishing rod – a really BIG fishing rod. I went fishing at Hihi but I only caught a little fish. I like Christmas because I get good stuff.”