



Celeste's snap a hit with PM

By **JANINE HILL**

PRIME Minister Julia Gillard has used a little piece of the Sunshine Coast to send her Christmas wishes this year.

The Prime Minister has selected an Oxfam Christmas card carrying an image by a Coast photographer as her official card.

The card, which displays Celeste Brignac's picture of baubles at the beach, has become one of Oxfam's top two selling cards this Christmas.

Ms Brignac, who moved to the Sunshine Coast from the United States five years ago, has got a kick out of thinking that the PM might be sending her card to national and international leaders.

"My family have been joking that Obama might get one," she said.

The card carries one of four photographs Ms Brignac sent to Oxfam over a two-



year period in response to a call out for Christmas card images.

Oxfam's director trading, Nadine Silverberg, said Baubles on the Beach appealed because it reflected an Aussie Christmas.

"We originally chose the Baubles on the Beach design last Christmas, and repeated it this year due to its popularity," Ms Silverberg said.

"We have sold 76% more of this card this year than in 2009."

Ms Brignac said the first she knew that her card had been chosen by the PM was when a friend rang to say she had recognised the image in a report on the television show, The 7pm Project.

"She said, 'Oh my God, that's the card you sent me last year,'" Ms Brignac said.

Ms Brignac decided to photograph baubles with the beach to depict a hot Aussie Christmas. "I'm from America so it's not usually hot during Christmas and I just wanted to show something Australian," she said.

The Coast council has bought Ms Brignac's beachside images for use on festive banners around Mooloolaba.

Ms Brignac worked as a freelance photographer and for newspapers in the United States.

View her work at www.celestebrignac.com or order cards from www.oxfam-shop.org.au



PM PLEASER: Sunshine Coast photographer Celeste Brignac.

PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN / 196214