

Christmas

S P I R I T 2 0 2 5

A Guide to Christmas in the Limestone Coast

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galore**

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FROM THE DESK OF

❄️ *Santa Claus* ❄️

Dear Readers,

Ho Ho Ho! Santa here, sending a warm swirl of Christmas magic to everyone across the beautiful Limestone Coast. As I check my lists here at the North Pole—twice, of course—I’ve been hearing the most delightful things about Mount Gambier and its surrounding towns. The elves keep telling me how excited they are to fly over the Blue Lake again this year. They always give a cheer when they see it glowing.

I’ve also heard families across the Limestone Coast have been spreading kindness, helping neighbours, supporting local events, and sharing plenty of Christmas spirit. That warms my heart more than a mug of Mrs. Claus’s best hot cocoa (and that’s saying something!). The elves are busy finishing off toys, the sleigh is nearly packed, and we’re tuning the reindeer for the big journey. To all the children (and grown-ups, too!), keep believing, keep being kind, and spreading joy throughout the whole region. Magic grows wherever kindness is found. I’ll be visiting on Christmas Eve, so make sure you’re tucked in early. A carrot for the reindeer is always appreciated—and I certainly wouldn’t say no to a biscuit.

Wishing you a festive season full of laughter, love, and wonder.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Santa Claus



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MAGICAL MAIL

Merry Christmas from us

It has been another big year at SA Today Limestone Coast.

FROM Keith to the coast and everywhere in between, our journalists have been to hundreds of local events, told thousands of your stories and typed millions of words.

We have travelled thousands of kilometers to bring you all the news that matters.

This year, we added to our stable, launching Agriculture Today to bring our readers all the ag news from the region and Western Victoria.

Its been a busy year, but we have loved every minute of it!

As the year draws to a close, and we start to look to next year, it's a good time to reflect on the year that was, and where we want to be next year.

We were sad to lose some of our staff members, but also overjoyed to welcome new ones.

Of course, we couldn't have done everything we

have achieved this year without all of you - our readers and our advertisers, without whom we would not be here.

Please keep your news tips, your stories and you photos coming, we love to hear from you!

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and we look forward to continuing it all next year.

Merry Christmas and a happy new Year from the SA Today team.

Grow your own tree

Christmas has always been a relatively low-key affair for both my husband and I, without too many family traditions - unless eating a lot is a tradition!

Elisabeth Champion

SO, starting our own family meant making our own Christmas traditions, and living in pine country gave us a perfect opportunity - "growing" our own Christmas tree.

We started this when my oldest daughter was just a toddler, and it is now one of my favourite things about Christmas.

It's important to note, this trick only works when there is Christmas magic in the air, so you will have to wait until late in the year for it to work.

Now growing a tree at home is a big responsibility, and requires some assistance from special helpers - we personally get help from the team at Key 2 Sale and their Key2Kindness fundraiser.

To grow your tree, you must first decide where you will find the best pinecone - we visit the "Pinecone Forest" (as my daughter calls it) opposite the airport.

Of course, selecting the right pinecone is important - it's a skill that only children full of Christmas joy really possess, so you'll have to trust their judgement!

Once you have selected the perfect pinecone, it's important to handle it with care to ensure the best tree.

At home, take a large bowl, and in it mix sand - we find play sand is best - glitter and sequins, and of course water.

Feel free to also throw in anything else that feels right - growing a Christmas tree strongly relies on Christmas spirit and magic, so they are pretty hardy.

Then simply leave the pinecone to grow for as long as it needs but remember that Christmas trees only grow when no one is watching.

We find they grow best when the kids are busy out of the house, so make sure to give the tree some time.

Once your tree is fully grown, decorate as per normal.

Matilda and Elliot with their perfect Christmas tree pinecones.





Tatiara Medical Centre would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. We wish you all good health and happiness this festive season.

Christmas Open Hours

Closed all public holidays.

Please be advised closing times may vary during the festive time.

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The Tenison Woods College Community
wishes everyone a Holy Christmas and a safe and joyus New Year.



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Aria, Kenzie, Elijah and Louis. (Melanie Riley: 521392)

Students spreading joy

Christmas cheer has arrived and it has spread to the Mount Gambier Marketplace, as brightly decorated Christmas trees now line the walkway throughout the centre.

By Melanie Riley

STUDENTS from Beyond Early Learning, Tenison Woods College, St Martins Lutheran College, McDonald Park, Melaleuca Park, Moorak, Glenburnie and Reidy Park Primary Schools took part in decorating the trees, using hand-made decorations from sustainable materials.

This year, there was no set theme and the schools embraced the opportunity to showcase their creativity through their own unique themes and decorations.

Students in Room One at Melaleuca Park, along with the reception students, focused on repurposing decommissioned single-use plastics for their decorations.

Their goal was to use as many of these items as possible in their creations.

Local businesses donated plastic drink lids, which were painted for the garland and straws for their star decorations, along with glittery pipe cleaners and beads.



Moorak Primary School used a variety of materials for their decorations. (521392)

Each bauble hung on the tree was unique, having been crafted from donated scrap material.

Mini pinecones were coloured and glittered, while angels were crafted from wooden sticks and cupcake pans.

Room One students shared what they love about Christmas.



Melaleuca Park's colourful decorations. (521392)

"I love dinosaur eggs and presents," Louis said.

"I love a Christmas toy bunny," Aria said.

"I got a surprise teddy and a book," Kenzie said.

"I love decorating and presents," Dean said.

"I love opening up presents at Christmas because it's fun," Scarlett said.

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ac.care Limestone Coast homelessness client support worker Deanne Swift and Limestone Coast homelessness service manager Kelly McGuinness are calling on the community to help decorate the Mount Gambier Community Centre Christmas tree and provide valuable support to people facing hardship during the festive season.

Buy a bauble for good

Help bring Christmas joy to Limestone Coast families by buying a bauble.

LIMESTONE Coast charity ac.care are encouraging locals to purchase a decoration with a difference this Christmas to support Limestone Coast people experiencing hardship during the festive season.

Donations made through the Buy A Bauble initiative will go directly to providing Limestone Coast people in need with vouchers, food and gifts to ease the financial burden of Christmas.

The community's impact will be on show at ac.care's Mount Gambier Community Centre where a Christmas tree will be decorated in-line with donations, while a virtual tree will also be showcased on the agency's Facebook page.

Donors can purchase a blue bauble (\$25), silver bauble (\$50), gold bauble (\$100), silver angel (\$250), gold angel (\$500), or choose their own amount as all donations will help increase ac.care's impact this Christmas. A major sup-

porter is also being sought for the gold star atop the tree, with the \$2000 donation helping to support around 20 families this festive season.

ac.care Mount Gambier Community Centre coordinator Cathy Beckman said the agency was once again bracing for significant demand as cost-of-living pressures and other factors led people experiencing hardship to seek support.

"Last year we provided over 660 people with vouchers, food and gifts specifically to help them celebrate Christmas, which included bringing joy to around 300 local children," Ms Beckman said.

"For people who are already struggling to meet their basic needs, this makes such a difference and helps ease some of the pressures brought on by Christmas.

"The feedback we hear from people who receive this support is humbling and their appreciation

extends to the entire community who give generously through various donations and appeals."

All decorations purchased through the Buy A Bauble initiative will be displayed at Mount Gambier Community Centre with their preferred donor name. Bauble donations with the Facebook icon will also be added to our virtual tree, which will be updated on the ac.care Facebook page.

"Every contribution, big or small, helps to increase our impact and brings some joy to people at Christmas," Ms Beckman said.

Visit <https://bit.ly/accareBuyABauble25> to learn more about the initiative and to make a tax deductible donation.

If you or someone you know needs support, visit www.accare.org.au to find your nearest site or call 1300 ACCARE (1300 222 273)

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Protect pets over holidays

Christmas is quickly approaching with animal rescues and veterinarians urging pet owners to be vigilant and ensure the safety of their furry friends this season.

By Melanie Riley

PETS are important to all family members and as part of the family, many want to be able to enjoy their pet's company over the festive season.

For families heading away on holidays, there are several options pet owners have which will ensure they are well taken care of.

First and foremost, owners may consider taking their pets with them.

If this is not an option, kennels, catteries and boarding places are available across the region.

Having a family member or friend take care of pets, either by taking them in or visiting the home daily is another option.

The holiday season is a time to celebrate - which often means fireworks, especially across the region to bring in the new year.

If pets are usually frightened of fireworks, consider keeping them inside - it may hopefully avoid an escape.

As the warmer weather approaches, pets can easily overheat, with precautions to keep them safe highly encouraged.

To keep pets safe, never leave them unattended in a vehicle, test the ground temperature with a hand for five seconds before allowing the pet to walk on it and bring them inside whenever possible, using air conditioning if available.



South East Animal Welfare League shelter manager, Trina Twilley and staff member Lillie Furner urged pet owners to keep their furry friends safe, happy and healthy this Christmas season. (Melanie Riley: 447848)

Always ensure they have a full bowl of fresh water, as they will drink more than usual.

With the festive season comes festive food.

There are several foods furry friends should stay away from which owners may find in their kitchen or dinner table this festive season.

Be mindful of leftovers they may pass to your

pets, food falling onto the floor and ensure visitors to the dinner table are also aware of the risks.

Some foods to steer clear from are dried fruits in desserts such as cakes, mince pies and puddings, onions and garlic in stuffing, gravy, bones, stone fruit and chocolate.

Pets are not presents

With Christmas just around the corner, it is important to avoid the temptation of impulsively giving animals as gifts.

By Melanie Riley

While the thought of gifting a pet might seem heartwarming, the reality is that gifting a pet comes with long-term responsibilities including ongoing care, attention and resources - factors that many recipients may not have fully considered.

This can lead to the surrender of pets in the weeks following Christmas, causing distress to the animal and already overwhelmed animal rescue organisations.

For those ready to welcome a furry friend into their homes, adoption should be a carefully con-

sidered decision, made after extensive research into the animal's needs and ensuring they can be adequately cared for.

For a more thoughtful alternative, consider a donation in your loved one's name to your local animal rescue.

A Christmas-themed advertisement for Rose Dale Funerals. The background is a soft-focus image of a white Christmas stocking hanging on a wall, with snowflakes and lights. The text is in a mix of red and black fonts. The logo features a stylized 'R' with a red rose inside a circle, with 'ROSEDALE FUNERALS' and 'EST 1992' around it.

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A blue advertisement for BatteryWorld. The background is a solid blue color. The BatteryWorld logo is at the top, with icons for a car, a truck, a house, and a house with a battery. Below the logo is the text 'Visit your NEW local battery experts this holiday season.' and 'WE CAN EVEN COME TO YOU!'. At the bottom, there is a location pin icon and the address '293A Commercial St W, Mount Gambier' and a phone icon and the number '8728 0715'.

BatteryWorld

Visit your **NEW** local battery experts this holiday season.

WE CAN EVEN COME TO YOU!

293A Commercial St W, Mount Gambier 8728 0715

Think safety this season

Travellers are reminded to remain safe on the road this festive season.

By Charlotte Varcoe

LIMESTONE Coast Superintendent Trent Cox said the local police officers would remain out in full force keeping residents and visitors safe.

Supt. Cox said the road safety message would be the same message passed down during the year but with increased traffic expected, it was more important than ever.

"We get a lot of interstate travellers and it is an especially dangerous time for road users," he said.

"We want everyone to be festive and happy and not have Christmas marred by the tragic behaviour of others on the road or their own driving."

He said people were also driving longer distances than usual, particularly around the Limestone Coast with many interstate visitors coming to the region.

"Our focus is, as it always is, on the fatal five including wearing seatbelts, speed, inattention, the use of handheld devices, drug and drink driving and just dangerous driving which can be anything from street racing to doing burnouts," Supt. Cox said.

"People should also be aware we now have the capacity to test for the presence of cocaine as a prescribed drug through our drug tests and we are already seeing some positive detections."

"It is disappointing but we remind people there is no safe mix of drugs, alcohol and driving."

Ultimately, Supt. Cox said the goal for the festive season was to have zero serious injury crashes and zero lives lost on South Australian roads.

"It is always the goal to have zero crashes but importantly zero serious injuries and no lives lost because you can imagine this time of year if you lost a loved one or if you had permanent injuries, you would always remember Christmas for the wrong reasons," he said.

"There is no good time of the year for a crash like that to occur but the festive season is supposed to be joyous and you do not want this sort of legacy as a result of poor choices."

Statistically with more travellers on the road, Supt. Cox said there were more chances of poor



Limestone Coast Superintendent Trent Cox is reminding community members and visitors to be safe this season. (Tyler Redway: 519745)

driver behaviour and reminded those who were looking at travelling to take care with being late better than putting themselves or others at risk.

"It is also a good time to remind people to drive to the speed limit," he said.

"Some South Australian roads are posted as 100km per hour and in built up areas it is 50km per hour but unless posted otherwise it is 100km...it does catch some people unaware, especially for interstate visitors."

Supt. Cox said during the season, police members would remain out in full force on highways and within towns while rolling operations targeted road safety.

"It is a reminder that every police car has the ca-

capacity to stop any driver at any time day or night and subject them to a roadside test," he said.

"That can be alcohol, drugs and we will be out there, we will be active."

During the higher risk times of year, Supt. Cox said vehicle licensing and defect stations, driver testing stations and more would be set up around the region as well as outside the Limestone Coast.

"It is not just a regional issue, it is a state issue and we are encouraging people to stay safe, make appropriate choices and get where you are going with loved ones to enjoy the festive season but make sure you do it responsibly on the road," he said.

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Consider your local op shops this Christmas, says Sarah Hamilton of the Good Country Community Op Shop in Bordertown. (Elisabeth Champion)

Look to second-hand

As Christmas gets closer and Christmas shopping gets into full swing, locals are urged to consider shopping sustainably and looking at local op shops.

By Elisabeth Champion

Sarah Hamilton from Good Country Community Op Shop in Bordertown said there are plenty of great finds in second hand stores at a fraction of the price.

"We get donated quite a lot of new stuff so we do actually have a section of anything that was already brand new, so we have a display of all potential Christmas gifts that are all new," she said.

"We also have new clothes for people that are wanting to buy new gifts.

"We've still got new stuff, even though we're an op shop.

"Last year, probably 80 per cent of my presents came from the op shop, and I let everybody know their presents were coming from the op shop.

"So with my grandkids, they still got new stuff, but they still got a lion's share of stuff that was

pre-loved and the beauty of that is they can regift it back to an op shop.

"I would be pushing anybody, even if it's new presents, if you're going to re-gift it, just donate it back to an op shop."

Another way of saving money at Christmas and being sustainable is a communal platter that gets reused and shared around.

My thing is that Christmas is everybody's out taking their platters of food to family and friends.

"So I would say to people instead of putting your name on your platter, come in and buy three or four platters - They're only \$3 or \$4, and beautiful platters that would be the \$40 platters you'd go and buy.

"You come in and buy them and then when you're taking your goodies, you can just write circular or something on the bottom, which means, don't bring it back, you just hang on to it.

"That's one of those sustainable things to just keep things circulating."

Instead of wrapping, look at purchasing reusable bags as a gift and wrapping all in one.

"Sometimes we get curtains or other stuff that's not fit for purpose to sell so we've now got a bunch of ladies who are making bags," Ms Hamilton said.

"So that's one of our things that we've been promoting as a Christmas gift or if you're coming in to buy stuff for Christmas, buy one of these bags and that could be one of the bags that you present your gifts. So that's one of the things we do."

At Good Country Op Shop, not only do purchases help keep items out of landfill but they also contribute to the local community, with the shop donating profits back to local community groups.

Good Country Op Shop is open 12pm to 4pm Monday to Thursday and 12pm to 5pm Friday.

Merry Christmas from ac.care

Thanks to your generous support, the Limestone Coast community increased ac.care's impact in 2025.

Together, we strive to ensure people in our community have safe homes, enough money to live on and strong, positive relationships.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

& Happy New Year from the District Council of Grant

Council's Principal Office will be closed from 12:00pm Wednesday 24 December 2025 and re-open 8:30am Monday 5 January 2026.

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Serving up a meal for all

Volunteers are getting ready for the annual Mount Gambier Christmas Community lunch, an event aimed at providing a safe and inclusive space for isolated, financially distressed and disadvantaged community members.

By Melanie Riley

SET to take place on Christmas Day, the event is now in its 15th year and the community need is growing each year.

Attendees will be treated to a three-course meal prepared and served by volunteers, entertainment, and complimentary gift bags.

Around 180 people attended the lunch last year and there were already a number of early registrations received before the registration date opened for the 2025 event.

Event leader Vicki Clark expected higher numbers this year, including takeaways.

"Economic times everywhere are getting a bit tougher, so I am expecting more," she said.

"The thing that we do now more of now is takeaways, because a lot of people have different reasons why they can't socialise with other people.

"So they'll ring up and ask for a takeaway and no problem, they'll come to the door and one of the volunteers will come and give it to them so they can still have a Christmas lunch, which is what it



The volunteer-led annual Mount Gambier Christmas Community lunch will take place again this year. (File)

is all about."

The inclusive event does require registration, however, nobody is turned away.

"The venue fits 200 people easily, and it would be great if we didn't have to fit 200, but the need is there," Ms Clark said.

"The response to the event is massive."

Ms Clark stressed the importance of being able to continue to hold the event and provide a space for people to feel included on Christmas Day.

"I don't know what these 180 people would do if we didn't have this Christmas lunch, and that can be scary," she said.

There will be a free bus service available for those without transport to the lunch and a taxi service for those who are unable to use a bus.

Donations for toiletries and \$10 gift cards suitable for a child are still being accepted - items can be dropped off at Mount Gambier Golf Club and Bendigo Bank.

Alternatively, to arrange a donation with Ms Clark or find out more about the lunch, please contact her directly on 0488100062.

The Community Christmas Lunch will take place at Mount Gambier City Hall on Thursday, December 25.

North Pole open for pho-ho-hone calls

Santa's phone line is now open for another year, allowing kids around Australia to chat to the man in red for free from any Telstra payphone.

By Melanie Riley

ANY of Telstra's 14,000 public phones across the country will connect the children directly to the North Pole where they can reach Santa's workshop.

Santa's elves will first answer the call and patch them through to the man himself.

Kids will have the opportunity to let Santa know what items are on their Christmas wish list in hopes they make the 'nice' list, while being encouraged to learn how to find and use a public

phone in case of an emergency.

Marty and Rory Saint have wasted no time in getting their Christmas wishes to Santa.

Marty is hoping for both a Lego car and a Lego airplane, while Rory has asked for a big slide and Kinder chocolate.

Calls can be made right through to Christmas Eve, before Santa clocks in for the night shift.

Children - and adults - wanting to speak to Santa himself can do so by calling #HOHOHO (#464646) at the public phones.



Marty and Rory Saint have put in their Christmas wish list requests. (Melanie Riley: 519941)

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FRIDAY, DEC 26 / Closed

SATURDAY, DEC 27 / 11am - 8pm

SUNDAY, DEC 28 / 11am - 8pm

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Christmas with the Rileys

The Riley Christmas has looked the same since I was young - a lunch feast of roast turkey, a leg of ham, roast vegetables and salads (tangy tomato noodles, of course) - and on paper plates to avoid too many dishes.

By Melanie Riley

IN the past, one sibling has often been hungover and one is always late (shout out to my brother).

After lunch, someone is allocated the 'Santa' role and is tasked with handing out the presents from the tree, while Ma follows behind and gathers up and bags the wrapping paper.

A nap usually takes place before dinner, and, unless you have another stop to make for the day, round two begins, consisting of leftovers that have been squeezed into any free spot on the fridge shelves.

And at some point throughout the day (usually before any feasting begins), the Annual Riley Christmas Photo takes place - a tradition we adopted around 10 years ago.

Our Christmases in Singapore with Ma's side of the family look a little different and it starts with



The Annual Riley Christmas Photo 2024.

Christmas Eve mass, with a supper to follow.

On Christmas Day, there is of course a giant feast, but the table is set for around four times

the amount of people as a Christmas at Ma's.

The table includes all of the classics - roast meat, a leg of ham and roast vegetables, but are joined by Eurasian classics like curry devil served with rice, achar serani (pickled vegetables) and chilli prawns.

Desserts have always included pineapple tarts and sugée cake.

A similar tale is told - some may head off to in-laws, some head to the couch for a little nap, but those who stick around are usually ready to grab out their two dollar notes and deal the cards for a game of Ban Lat, also known as Ban-Luck or Chinese Blackjack.

However you and your family celebrate Christmas, I hope you continue to keep your favourite family Christmas traditions alive.

From my fam to yours, have a happy holiday season x

Ma's shortbread

Every year at Christmas time, my mum makes this shortbread.

By Melanie Riley

I would love to say it is a secret family recipe, but the big secret is that it is just from the back of the McKenzie's rice flour box.

However, she adds her own special touch by dipping half of the shortbread in chocolate.

Ingredients:

- 225g plain flour, sifted
- 115g McKenzie's rice flour, sifted
- 115g caster sugar, sifted
- 1 pinch of salt
- 225g butter at room temperature

Method:

- Preheat oven to 150°C.
- Grease a baking tray.
- Combine sieved flour, rice flour, sugar and salt in a bowl.
- Rub in butter and knead gently until a smooth dough forms.
- Transfer onto a floured surface and shape as desired.
- Place onto a greased tray and prick with a fork.
- Bake in the oven for 20 to 30 minutes or until light golden.
- Allow to cool, cut and serve.
- Dip in chocolate if desired!



Ma Riley with her famous Christmas shortbread. (Melanie Riley: 521598)

**A very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
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Eurasian pineapple tarts

Pineapple tarts hold a very special place in the hearts of all Singaporeans, Eurasians included.

By **Melanie Riley**

SINCE my mum was young, she would help my Nanny Sally make around 150 to 200 of these at Christmas time along with her six siblings.

As my Nan grew older, my Aunty Sylvia took over the tradition and now makes around 500 for family and friends every year when she visits Singapore from Canada.

Pineapple tarts are still a staple on the dessert table for our family Christmases at her house.

This recipe features in my cousin Cheryl's cookbook, *The Eurasian Table: Second Helpings*.

Makes approximately 110 tarts

For the pastry:

1kg self-raising flour

500g salted butter

2 egg whites

4 egg yolks

4 tablespoons evaporated milk

For the pineapple jam:

3 pineapples

1 cinnamon quill

1 star anise

50g rock sugar (or granulated white or brown sugar)

250g white sugar

Additional ingredient:

1 beaten egg to eggwash the tarts

How to:

To make the pineapple jam, peel and core the pineapples.

You should be left with about 1.2kg-1.4kg of pineapple flesh after peeling and coring.

Chop the pineapples into very small chunks and strain away as much juice as you can.

(For a sweet treat, add ice to the fresh pineapple juice and sip away while you bake)

Fry the pineapple pieces, cinnamon and star



Pineapple tarts feature in *The Eurasian Table* cookbook. (Ashok Kumar)

anise together for a few minutes.

Add the sugars to the mix and continue to cook slowly for another hour, stirring occasionally until lightly browned.

Set aside the jam.

To make the pastry, mix the flour and butter together then add the eggs and milk to make a dough.

Add a bit more milk if needed.

Knead lightly and roll out the dough to about

5mm thick, then use a cutter and cut out the shapes of the tarts.

Put some jam in the middle.

Use a small pair of scissors to cut three blades into a small roll of pastry, then fan them out into a flower.

Place the flower atop the jam and brush the pastry with an eggwash.

Bake in a 160-degree, pre-heated oven for about 18 to 20 minutes or until the tarts are golden brown.



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Wishing you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from all the team!

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and reopen Monday **January 5**

See you next year!



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12814465-EB49-25

Sensitive Santa is back

Mount Gambier Library is delighted to announce the return of the popular ‘Sensitive Santa’ sessions for 2025, offering families a calm and personalised experience with Santa. These sessions will run Sunday 14 December 3:00pm – 5:00pm and Monday 15 December 3pm to 6pm.

CHILDREN and Youth Services Officer, Rebecca Coates said they are continuing the initiative due to an overwhelming response in previous years.

“We know how overwhelming Santa visits can be, we are providing 10-minute one-on-one sessions that can be customised to meet each family’s individual needs,” Ms Coates said.

“Santa will know your child’s name, understand any challenges, and if suitable a photo will be taken and shared digitally as a keepsake. We also welcome families to book in together so that siblings don’t miss out.”

“We are committed to providing a service that promotes inclusivity and ensures children in our community can enjoy the magic of Christmas in a way that feels comfortable and welcoming” Team Leader Children’s and Youth Services, Erin Jones said. “This year sessions will run during school holidays, with times available on Sunday and up to 6:00pm on Monday for those who prefer after-hours appointments,” Mrs Jones said.



Sensitive Santa, pictured with Linkin, will be back again this year. (Supplied)

With limited spaces available, bookings are essential.

Bookings can be made through Mount Gambier

Library on (08) 8721 2540 or booking online at www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library under ‘Programs and Events’.



Wattle Range COUNCIL

Council Christmas Closure & Holiday Waste Collection Services

Council Service Centre | Millicent
Closed from 1 pm Wednesday, 24 December 2025 and re-opening on Monday, 5 January 2026.

Millicent Library & Gallery
Closed from 1 pm Wednesday, 24 December 2025 and re-opening on Tuesday, 6 January 2026.

Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre
Closed from 5.30 pm Tuesday, 23 December 2025 and re-opening on Tuesday, 6 January 2026.

Penola Community Library
Closed from 3.30 pm Friday, 19 December 2025 and re-opening on Tuesday, 13 January 2026.

Visitor Information Centres - Beachport, Millicent & Penola
Closed Christmas Day ONLY
Open Daily Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm
Weekends/Public Holidays 10 am - 4 pm

Waste Collection Services - No Change in Service Dates
Residents are advised that there will be no change to bin collection service over the Christmas Day/New Year period. All public holiday collections, including Christmas Day will occur as normal.

Resource Recovery Centres and Waste Transfer Stations - Closed Christmas Day
Residents are advised that waste disposal sites will be closed on Christmas Day, Thursday, 25 December 2025. Sites will not be affected by any other public holidays during the festive season.

Penola & Nangwarry Pools
Closed Christmas Day ONLY – See Council’s website for pool opening hours.

In case of an emergency or urgent customer enquiry contact Council on 8733 0900.

Mayor Noll, Councillors and Staff wish all residents of the Wattle Range Council area a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To all our valued readers & advertisers, we would like to wish you a very

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Thank you for your support throughout the year

We will be releasing two special holiday editions on December 23 & January 2

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE:

MT GAMBIER OFFICE
Closing: Friday, December 19
Re-opening: Monday, January 5

For enquiries please email and one of our team members will respond when they return:
Advertising - advertising@tbwtoday.com.au
Editorial - editorial@tbwtoday.com.au

THE PENNANT Limestone Coast *Today*
The South Eastern Times Border Chronicle The Border Watch



Best Non-City Entry was Santa's Wonderful Workshop - Allendale East Area School



Most Outstanding Entry went to Arleyukes and Friends.

Winners on parade

More than 50 floats took to the streets recently for the Mount Gambier Christmas Parade

WITH all floats looking fantastic, judges had a hard job picking the winners of the categories.

City of Mount Gambier Community Events Team Leader Xarnia Keding said it was wonderful to see the effort participants put into their entries.

"The floats looked fantastic and the joy on children's faces was priceless," she said.

"The roving Aviators and Whacky Mac added extra fun, engaging with the crowd between floats and keeping the atmosphere lively."

This year's parade featured 53 entries competing for prizes judged on energy and engagement, creativity and overall effort.

Parade judge Cr Sonya Meziniec said the judging panel was particularly impressed with the vibrant decorations, colour and enthusiasm displayed by participants.

All prize money was generously donated by AAM Timber.

WINNERS:

- Arleyukes and Friends - Most Outstanding entry.
- Mount Gambier Calisthenics College - Best



People's Choice Award went to Santa's Speedsters – Mount Gambier Karting Club.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Theme with Candy Cane Lane • Mil-Lel Primary School's Mil-Lelf on a Shelf - Best School entry • Dream to Create - Best Club or Community Organisation (Jumanji Christmas Jungle.) • St Martins Lutheran College ('Jesus, you're my Superhero') -Open Category, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Lake Highland Band -Best Live Band award we • Property Co- Encouragement Award • Allendale East primary School - Best Non-city entry went to and the • Mount Gambier Karting Club -People's Choice Award. |
|---|---|

NICK McBRIDE MP
MEMBER FOR MACKILLOP

Wishing everyone in MacKillop a happy and safe festive season

✉ mackillop@parliament.sa.gov.au

☎ (08) 8762 1211

🏠 146 Smith Street, Naracoorte, SA, 5271

🌐 www.nickmcbride.com.au

Like & follow my social media pages by scanning the QR codes.

Authorised by N. McBride, 146 Smith Street, Naracoorte 5271

Merry Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE TEAM @

Millicent Tyre Centre

40 Mount Gambier Rd, Millicent SA 5280

Call to help those in need

CHARITY organisations are calling on the community to consider the gift of giving this festive season.

By Charlotte Varcoe

THE Salvation Army and ac.care will continue its Christmas drive this season to support those in bringing a fun and exciting day.

Between the two organisations, there are about 300 people on a waiting list for support.

Salvation Army corps officer Tim Frost said the charity organisation had been pretty consistent which was important.

"Other organisations, I would say, will be the same and the importance is people know they are allowed to come to us," Mr Frost said.

"We always have the people with either health care or pensioner cards but we do also have a proportion of people who are working full time."

He said the cost of living had gotten to the point where people could pay their bills but not have enough money to eat.

"I have had a number of people come to us and ask whether they can get some support as well," Mr Frost said.

"They work but they have got nothing for their children and we say they can come along because we will help them."

He said the Salvation Army would make its own hampers for those in need this year by purchasing the stock itself.

"We still use FoodBank and get a lot of supplies from them but we have decided we will pack our own things," Mr Frost said.

"We are already close to 100 applications already and that was at the end of November so we are expecting it to ramp up during December."

"Cash donations are good if they can help us in that way because it allows us to buy more hampers and we will buy vouchers and things like that for people and we have a combination of hampers and vouchers we give out as well as toys for the kids."

Mr Frost said those who were willing to donate were able to do so by dropping it off at the Salvation Army Church.

He also thanked volunteers this season while



ac.care homeless manager Trish Spark and Salvation Army corps officer Tim Frost are encouraging the community to come together this festive season.

ac.care homeless manager Trish Spark noted it had also had an increase in registrations.

"It is really busy as usual and is full on," Ms Spark said.

"If people are needing assistance I suggest they come and register as soon as possible."

She said registrations had already reached close to 200 people with last year totalling 280.

"There are a lot of people now who are working and need assistance as well because of low incomes and high rentals as well as the high cost of food," she said.

"We actually provide toys for the kids and we provide vouchers for people to be able to go and buy something special to have for Christmas lunch or dinner."

While ac.care continued to get a lot of support from the local community, Ms Spark said there

was still plenty of work to be done with ac.care having less funds than previously.

She said the centre was hosting its first 'buy a bauble' fundraiser with people able to donate as much as they could.

"We are trying to raise a bit more funds to make sure we can help everyone this year," she said.

"We have a lot of businesses in the community who are collecting goods for us which might be toys or things like food, Christmas cakes, biscuits or whatever else just to make it a bit more special for Christmas."

Ms Spark said those struggling this season were in the older age brackets while donated gifts for boys between the ages of nine-years-old and 12-years-old were lacking.

Those able to donate to either charity are encouraged to do so with ac.care handing out its gifts on December 19.



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SCAN TO VIEW TRADING HOURS

Give generously to appeal

The windows of the Old Town Hall on Commercial Street are once again lighting up for Christmas, with two windows already illuminated as the Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal surpasses \$10,000 in donations.

EACH year, the appeal plays a vital role in ensuring vulnerable and isolated members of our community experience the joy of Christmas.

All funds raised are distributed through the Christmas Cheer Program, delivered by local agencies: Uniting Care, ac.care, St Vincent de Paul and The Salvation Army.

City of Mount Gambier Mayor Lynette Martin expressed her heartfelt thanks to generous early donors, who are already thinking about others as we enter the festive season.

"I am thrilled that we've reached this milestone early in the appeal. We are so close to December now, and I encourage everyone to keep fundraising and donating to support the Christmas Cheer Program through the appeal," Mayor Martin said.

The Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal has officially been granted Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, meaning donations of \$2 or more are now tax-deductible. This makes it easier than ever for locals to support those in need this festive season.

Demand for assistance continues to rise as the cost of living places greater pressure on families and individuals. Local support agencies are working hard to meet the growing need for food hampers, gift vouchers and presents.

Mayor Martin called on the community to join in the festive effort, reminding residents that every act of kindness counts.

"The appeal is a fantastic way to unite our community and support those who need it most.

"Every contribution, no matter the size, helps

brighten not only a window, but the lives of residents facing difficult times."

Ways to donate

Online: Mount Gambier Community Mayor's Christmas Appeal

Phone: Call (08) 8721 2555 (option 1) with your credit card details. Council staff will email your receipt immediately.

In person: Visit the City of Mount Gambier Customer Service counter at the Civic Centre, 10 Watson Terrace.

By mail: Send a cheque made out to City of Mount Gambier to PO Box 56, Mount Gambier SA 5290. Please note the donation is for the Mayor's Christmas Appeal to receive a tax invoice.

Ways to give back this Christmas

Those looking to spread a little extra kindness this Christmas can do so by donating funds, time, toiletries, food or toys to local organisations making a difference to the lives of those in our community.

Donate funds:

- South East Animal Welfare League
- Four Reasons Why
- Mayor's Christmas Appeal
- ac.care
- Sunset Kitchen - Drop off at James Gray Salon
- Petstock Foundation Christmas Tree

Foodbank

The Nurtured Village Hampers Limestone Coast - Drop off at Little Presto, First Choice Early Education Centre, Goodstart Early Learning Queens Ave or Tenison Woods College ELCC

Donate time:

The Nurtured Village Hampers Limestone Coast - Drop off at Little Presto, First Choice Early Educa-

tion Centre, Goodstart Early Learning Queens Ave or Tenison Woods College ELCC

Donate toiletries (haircare, soap/body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste and deodorant):

- Sunset Kitchen - Drop off at James Gray Salon
- Christmas Community Lunch - Drop off to Mount Gambier Golf Club or Bendigo Bank
- Foodbank - Drop off to Foodbank Food Hub Mount Gambier

The Nurtured Village Hampers Limestone Coast - Drop off at Little Presto, First Choice Early Education Centre, Goodstart Early Learning Queens Ave or Tenison Woods College ELCC

Donate food:

- Sunset Kitchen - Drop off at James Gray Salon
- Foodbank - Drop off to Foodbank Food Hub Mount Gambier

Donate toys and gift cards:

- ac.care - Drop off at ac.care Community Centre
- The Nurtured Village Hampers Limestone Coast
- Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal
- Marketplace Christmas Appeal
- The Nurtured Village Hampers Limestone Coast - Drop off at Little Presto, First Choice Early Education Centre, Goodstart Early Learning Queens Ave or Tenison Woods College ELCC

Donate books:

- Mount Gambier Library

Can't decide on a gift! Come see the girls,

at The Laundry Hub!

Shop hours for shop

Monday 10am to 2pm

Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm

Saturday 9am to 12pm

Phone: 8762 0699

Laundry hours

6am to 10pm

7days a week!

After Hours:

0427 642 155



Lock up before you leave

Limestone Coast Superintendent Trent Cox encouraged the community to think about home security this holiday season, with many travelling away for long periods of time.

By Charlotte Varcoe

"THERE are some simple things to help such as telling your neighbours and we know this can be difficult for primary producers where neighbours are about a kilometre away but just get somebody to house sit or even check in on your home," he said.

"Leaving lights on to give the appearance of somebody being home, even if the lights are on timers, also helps as ensuring your home is secured with good quality locks."

Supt. Cox also suggested investing in security cameras which linked to smart phones while committing to police patrols and proactive surveillance.

"Neighbours can be the best allies or family friends who can look after the house while people are away," he said.

"Most people also put their presents under a Christmas tree so if the tree is visible through an open window it is highly likely the stack of presents under it are also visible so it can be an open invitation to crooks to come and break in.

"They would not have to enter the house, they could just smash the windows, reach through and grab and go."

While historically police officers attended more break-ins during the spring and summer months, Supt. Cox said it was not just the Christmas season people should be taking home security seriously but throughout the entire holiday season with many families travelling for long periods of time.

He said measures could be put in place to reduce the risk of home invasion including putting a hold on mail, investing in good outdoor lighting or sensor lights and encouraging valuables to be marked by either engraving, micro-dot technology or ultra-violet ink.

"There may be an element of skylarking but also we do not encourage people to leave their Christmas lights on if they are going away for an extended period of time because there are a lot of cheap and nasty products which may risk



Be mindful of securing your home before going away for Christmas.

overheating," he said.

Despite the stark warning, Supt. Cox said South Australian Police wished the community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for those who celebrate.

"We are also conscious we live in a very multi-cultural society in the Limestone Coast region so Christmas may be another day for them which is okay," he said.

"We want everyone to have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year period and we will be working 24-hours and putting a lot of resources into New Years as well."

The Mount Gambier Police Station is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm and 9am until 3.30pm on weekends.

Those wishing to call the police station can do so on 8735 1020 or in an emergency call 000.

Merry Christmas

Thank you for supporting my
Barker Christmas Gift Giving Program

TONY PASIN MP Federal Member for Barker

Phone 8531 2466 | Email tony.pasin.mp@aph.gov.au

 TonyPasinMP

 tonypasinmp



Authorised by Tony Pasin MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 27 Commercial St, Mount Gambier SA 5290





Reach out this Christmas

A message from the Salvation Army

DEAR Editor,

With Christmas upon us, I have begun to notice a strange phenomenon. Although Christmas is a time of joy and hope for so many, I have also noticed a heaviness, a stress, a pressure that has started to come to the surface in people's lives.

As The Salvation Army, we notice these pressures firsthand. They are the pressures that are placed on individuals and families at Christmas which can turn a time of joy into a time of distress.

One of the most obvious pressures is the financial pressure people face. It is the choice between paying for food and affording presents for their children or being able to go to the doctor instead of a special Christmas Day meal.

Christmas also illuminates other pressures, like relationship tensions as family conflict is heightened, or time pressures due to the busyness of the season.

But one of the more hidden pressures we see people facing, although often one of the most damaging, is the pressure of comparison with those around you at Christmas time. Pressure to spend a certain amount, look a certain way, buy a certain number of gifts, have all your friends over for a meal, the list goes on.

We see firsthand the damage this can create. The stress placed on a family trying to 'keep up' with those around them can be debilitating, not just for individuals and parents but also for children.

This is why we want to encourage Australians to re-think how they approach Christmas this year, so as to not fall into the trap of comparison and 'keeping up' with those around you.

Aim for connection, not perfection. Being with others is so much more valuable than stressing about creating the perfect Christmas, whether it be with family, friends or the Salvos – there's no need to be alone this Christmas, we're here for you.

Share the load. Ask others to chip in, encourage everyone to bring a plate or help out in another way. You don't have to be everything to everyone.

And finally, if you are struggling this Christmas, please don't be ashamed to reach out for support. We want you to know that we have your Christmas taken care of this year – providing gifts for children, hampers and meals for Christmas Day, and a place for connection where you can belong.

If you need help this Christmas, or to donate to The Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal which is aiming to raise \$29 million, please visit salvationarmy.org.au or call 13 SALVOS (13 72 58).

From all of us at the Salvos, we wish you a very happy and hope-filled Christmas.

**Colonel Rodney Walters,
The Salvation Army**



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Flowers, plants, gifts + great coffee

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*Shop local
this festive season*

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM
THURSDAY 18TH 9AM - 7PM
SATURDAY 13TH & 20TH 9AM - 2PM
SUNDAY 14TH & 21ST 11AM - 2PM
SATURDAY 27TH 9AM - 12PM

**Closed Christmas Day & Boxing Day
(resume normal hours 28th Dec)
Closed New Years Day 1st January**

Gift Vouchers Available
Free Gift Wrapping

BARE NECESSITIES LINGERIE

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Mount Gambier SA 5290**



12819395-EB49-25

Keep your 2026 resolutions

New Year's is a time of celebration and welcoming a fresh start but it's also the time where those seemingly unattainable resolutions are made.

WHAT if you could actually achieve those goals this year with a few simple steps? Would you attempt to stick to them this time?

Every year, thousands, possibly millions of people in Australia make resolutions to lose weight, exercise more regularly, eat better, save money or spend more time with family and friends but the majority don't seem to manage those vague intentions.

Most of the time the problem lies with not setting specific enough goals so that each time a target is reached that's an achievement in itself.

The best thing to help you stick to your goals is to set a detailed plan or timetable to give yourself those little milestones every so often.

So if it's money you're trying to save, make a plan to set aside an amount from every pay and set a monthly target to note the progress.

But be realistic in what you set as your overall goal and as those smaller targets, trying to achieve too much might lead to failure after a few weeks or months.

Being consistent is also going to make things easier. It only takes 28 days to create a habit, so by doing something each day or as often as you can, soon it will just be something you do and not a resolution.

Take exercise for example, if you can do something small every day at the same time or in the same place it's going to leave an impression on your body and mind.

While yes it is good to make something a habit, don't pressure yourself either, that might just lead to resentment of your resolution.

Other tips:

- Start small
- Get support from others to keep you motivated
- Don't expect big change to happen over night
- Re-evaluate your goals if you need to

After the last two years of lockdowns and restrictions it would be understandable if people want to set a number of resolutions but even though New Year's calls for a fresh start, it doesn't mean you have to set yourself goals at all.

Maybe just see where the year takes you and achieve along the way.



KEEPING RESOLUTIONS: Keeping resolutions can be tough.



We wish all of our clients and their families a safe, happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Sinclair Wilson offices will close at 5pm on Tuesday 23rd December 2025, and re-open at 8.30am Monday 5th January 2026.

For urgent matters, please contact your accountant on their after hours number.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM

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Tel: 8724 0399



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Why not get creative when it comes time to wrap all those presents.

Wrapped with love

Christmas shopping is all wrapped up for another year, the tree is up, all that is left to do is wrap the presents.

BUT wrapping doesn't have to mean buying the most expensive wrapping paper you can, or the cheapest and in these days when we are all looking to save money and the environment, wrapping presents creatively might just be the way to go.

Wrapping a kitchen-themed gift for the cook in family could be as easy as buying a nice new tea towel and ribbon or even an apron. A cook book from their favourite chef wrapped in a tea towel or apron - tied up with ribbon gives you two gifts in one. A piece of gingham from the craft shop is also an alternative to wrapping paper - particularly for the crafty member of the family who could repurpose it as a tablecloth.

For the music lover in the house why not try photocopying or buying old sheet music - pho-

tocopying allows for the music to be used again and again and to be blown up if needed. This could be the perfect wrapping paper for a CD, music gift card or DVD. Carol music could also be used - trimmed with ribbons or bells.

For the fashion lover, a shirt and brooch from the local op-shop could be repurposed to wrap and decorate a more expensive gift of clothing, fashion books, perfume or make up. And with colouring in books all the rage, why not use completed pages to wrap smaller item.

Pretty pillow slips and old pieces of left over lace or buttons could also make suitable wrapping paper alternatives as could cheap calico bags - decorated anyway you like and then re-used for the shopping after Christmas.

Brown paper is another alternative - those with

young children could make good old-fashion potato stamps (cutting out a star or a Christmas tree from a potato) and have a day of letting the children stamp their own wrapping paper for teachers or friends. Henna stamps and other more professional stamps can also be picked up from craft stores.

Old maps from a favourite holiday, that are cluttering up drawers would also make unusual wrapping paper, particularly for those members of the family who love to travel.

Decorations for your nicely wrapped presents could be anything from shells and raffia, to bells, buttons, ribbons, pine cones and foliage.

Making store-bought gifts look beautiful and original under the tree doesn't have to cost the earth.

STIHL SHOP
 MOUNT GAMBIER

Christmas hours:
 Close at midday 24th December 2025
 Re-open Monday 12th January 2026

From all the team at STIHL Shop Mount Gambier, we thank our customers for your support over the past year, and we wish you a blessed Christmas and safe & happy new year.

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Plenty of holiday events

Christmas events for the Limestone Coast

Dot the Halls: The Christmas Obliteration Village

- Until December 20, Walkway Gallery, Bordertown
- Inspired by Japanese artist Kusama's iconic Obliteration Room, the festive version begins as a brown cardboard village - houses, trees, reindeers and gifts all waiting for you to decorate. Grab a sheet of bright colourful dot stickers and help bring the village to life. One sheet per person, per day. Suitable for all ages.

2025 Mayoral Christmas Parade and Family Evening

- Friday, December 12, 6pm, Lion's Park Kingston SE
- There is something for everyone - food, drinks, music and lots of fun for the kids. Activities including a Mechanical Bull, Maria Combo Castle and Christmas Castle will be operational from 7pm to 9pm. The Lobster Trail will be available and there will be fireworks at 9.15pm.

Naracoorte Christmas Market

- Friday, December 12, to Saturday, December 14, from 9am, Senior Citizen's Hall, Naracoorte
- Demonstrations and workshops, market stalls and raffles. Something for everyone. Proceeds go to Brain Cancer research and local charities.

Bordertown Christmas Street Party

- Friday, December 12, 5pm to 8pm, Apex Park
- Grab the kids and head to Apex park for the Bordertown Christmas Street Party. Kids can join in the decorated bike parade, do the trek or just enjoy the Christmas vibes. With local stores open late and market stalls with locally made wares, make sure to do some Christmas shopping as well. All welcome.

Lucindale Christmas Party

- Friday, December 12, from 5pm, Lucindale Playground
- Bring the kids for a fun-filled night! With a parade, wheelbarrow and decorated bike

competitions, yabby racing and a raffle there is heaps to keep the whole family entertained. There will be a kids Christams market, where children are encouraged to bring their wares. Santa will pop by for a visit so bring the whole family.

Sensitive Santa

- Sunday, December 14, 9.30am to 10.30am, Mount Gambier Marketplace
- Sensitive Santa sessions are free of charge and give families with special needs children the opportunity to visit Santa in a low-stress environment, before general trading commences. Bookings essential via Mount Gambler Marketplace website.

Keith Community Christmas Carols

- Sunday, December 14, from 6pm, Keith One Church Lawns
- Join in for an evening of carols, Christmas joy, and the retelling of the book Wombat Divine. Tea available from 6pm, no cost and carols start at 7pm. Bring your own chair or blanket. All welcome.

Padthaway Christmas Party

- Sunday, December 14, from 5pm, Apex Park, Padthaway
- There will be festive fun for all ages at the Padthaway Christmas Party. Christmas floats, food stalls, train rides and a visit from Santa are on the schedule. BYO chairs and alcohol.

Naracoorte Carols in the Square

- Sunday, December 14, from 6pm, Naracoorte Town Square
- Join in the community as they sing loud and proud at the Naracoorte Carols in the Square. With special performances, sing-alongs and plenty of food and drinks on offer, it will be a family-friendly event for all.

Christmas Carol Service

- Sunday, December 14, 3pm, Anglican Church, Millicent
- A Service of 9 Lessons and Carols by the Millicent Choral Society. There will be a collection for the Combined Churches Christmas

Hamper appeal.

Blue Lake Carols

- Sunday, December 14, from 6pm, Mount Gambier Railway Lands
- The Mount Gambier/Berrin community will come together and sing in harmony at the Blue Lake Carols. With a jam-packed line-up of singers and performers and food and drinks available, it will be a great family night out.

Mundulla Carols

- Sunday, December 14, from 7pm, Mundulla Common
- Share an evening wit the community at the Mundulla Carols. Bring an offering towards the Tatiara Schools Pastoral Care Workers. Please bring a chair

Reedy Creek Christmas Tree

- Monday, December 15, from 6.30pm, Reedy Creek Memorial Hall
- Join the community for the annual Reedy Creek Christmas Tree. Bring a plate of savoury and sweet to share. Father Christmas will attend. See Madeline or Kate on arrival and don't forget to bring your coins for our raffle. Call to RSVP your attendance Kate (0427 200 307) or Madeline (0422 126 652).

Sensitive Santa

- Monday, December 15, 9.30am to 10.30am, Mount Gambier Marketplace
- Sensitive Santa sessions are free of charge and give families with special needs children the opportunity to visit Santa in a low-stress environment, before general trading commences. Bookings essential via Mount Gambler Marketplace website.

Naracoorte Town Square Christmas Market

- Saturday, December 20, 9am to 1pm
- Join in the festive cheer and browse a wide variety of market stalls in the last few trading days before Christmas. Bring along a picnic rug and find a spot to enjoy the live music with food offerings from a range of vendors.



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www.southeastfunerals.com.au

Casterton
(03) 5581 2020 ~ 72 Henty Street

12813082-IV49-25

Paper Mache trees

- Tuesday December 16, 11am and 2pm, Tatiara Civic Centre, Bordertown
- Design and create your own 3D Christmas Tree with assorted collage materials and posca pens. Workshops at 11am and 2pm, all materials provided, Booking essential, phone Bordertown Library to book in on 8752 1473.

String Art Star

- Wednesday December 17, 11am and 2pm, Tatiara Civic Centre, Bordertown
- Your bright star will come to life as you wrap thread around the peg board, create your own patterns and decorate with stickers. Workshops at 11am and 2pm, all materials

provided, Booking essential, phone Bordertown Library to book in on 8752 1473.

Christmas Tote Design

- Thursday, December 18, 11am and 2pm, Tatiara Civic Centre, Bordertown
- Design and colour your own Christmas Tote with fabric markers and posca pens! Choose from pre-printed or blank tote bags. Workshops at 11am and 2pm, all materials provided, booking essential, phone Bordertown Library to book in on 8752 1473.

Disability Inclusion Christmas Party

- Thursday, December 18, 12.30pm, Apex Park, Bordertown
- All are welcome at this inclusive event, Join in for food fun and festive cheer. RSVP by

December 16 On 0437 149 583.

Penola Christmas Party

- Friday, December 19, from 5pm, Church Street, Penola
- Food, drinks, music and more. Lets celebrate the festive season right with the Penola and Coonawarra community.

Robe Christmas Parade

- Sunday, December 21, 4.30pm, Victoria Street, Robe
- Christmas will come to Robe on December 21 with the annual parade. It will finish at the robe Institute where there will be Santa, a jumping castle, face painting, a sled raffle and food and drinks for sale.



There is a jam-packed schedule of Christmas fun this month. (File)



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HORSHAM
HAMILTON

WPRS and Skinlab wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Wonderful New Year. Thank you for placing your trust in us and allowing us to care for the Limestone Coast and Western District Communities.

All your specialists live in the region and we are proud to offer hand and wrist surgery, all forms of plastic and reconstructive surgery, specialised dermatology services, cosmetic injectables and skin cancer checks. We proudly accept all GP referrals and look forward to expanding next year offering surgery at Hamilton Hospital.

Our rooms will be closed from the 23rd of December until we reopen on the 6th of January.
Phone 08 8725 5302

Make your own crackers

It's one of the most beloved Christmas traditions: pulling a cracker with a loved one and seeing who ends up with the funny hat. But Christmas crackers are often the last thing on the shopping list and after buying the presents, trimmings and food, pockets feel a little less than flush.

WHY not try making your own? It's easy and economical, using everyday items you probably have at home already. Best of all, you can fill them with trinkets that mean something to your guests, rather than plastic tidbits that are likely to go in the bin at the end of the meal. Now that's 'bang' for your buck!

Here's how to put them together:

First, purchase some cracker snaps from your local craft store, like Spotlight. That will give you the authentic bon bon bang!

Next, place a cracker snap in a cardboard tube, say a toilet roll tube or a paper towel tube cut in half. If you don't have any tubes handy, you can find these at craft shops, or cut pieces of flexible cardboard into rectangles and roll into cylinders. Secure the snap with a piece of tape or glue.

Then, choose your paper wrapping! You can wrap your bon bons in colourful tissue paper to match your table setting, Christmas wrapping paper, or even light fabric that can be washed and reused again next year. Cut it to fit the tube, with enough overhang to cover the ends of the snap.

Roll around the tube and stick down with tape. Pinch one end and tie it down with a ribbon of your choice.

Fill the other end of the tube with your trinkets and fillings (see below for some ideas on what fillings to use!) then tie the last end shut.

For a personal touch, add a name tag and use each bon bon as a place setting for the table!

Here are some ideas for entertaining cracker fillings:

- If your guests have a bit of a sweet tooth, buy a box of chocolates and divvy them up amongst the crackers. For the adults in the room, you can purchase liqueur-flavoured chocolates to match guests' favourite tipples - or perhaps even mini bottles of their favourite spirits.



GET CRACKIN': Try your hand at making your own Christmas crackers

- Instead of the cheesy jokes we've all heard a thousand times before, write some positive affirmations or messages for the New Year and slip those inside. People love to know they are cared for!
- Are you a romantic at heart? If your beloved loves Christmas as much as you do, a

cracker might be the place to hide the ring. Just make sure they get the right bon bon to pull or things could get awkward.

- For the kids, include something they'll actually use. Colourful hair ties or clips, badges, marbles or spinning tops make cute gifts for the little ones.



The team at MT Wheels would like to wish all their valued customers, friends and families a very Merry Christmas and Safe and Happy New Year. May 2026 bring you Much Joy and Happiness.

Closing midday Wednesday 24 December and reopening Monday 5 Jan at 7.30am

☎ 08 8723 3231

www.mtwheels.com.au

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📷 MT Wheels Instagram

🐦 Twitter

**332 Commercial Street
West Mount Gambier SA 5290**





The pastors and churches of the Tatiara extend Christmas blessings and peace to all people of the South East. (File)

Christmas wishes

We certainly don't need to be reminded that Christmas time is here again, when retail shops are all stocked up several months before with decorations, lights and gifts to purchase.

IT is a very good thing to give gifts to one another, and gather with family and friends to celebrate the Christmas tradition. But this tradition was no fairy tale.

Over two thousand years ago when those living at that time, actually saw God in the flesh,[Jesus Christ], he proved by many miracles that he was who he said he was.

Secular historians even recorded this mighty event, as well as Biblical authors that God the Father had sent him to earth, not to condemn the world, but to save and rescue it from the consequences of sin, by being punished in our place.

That truly demonstrates the highest form of LOVE possible and is a Gift so very precious and powerful for all mankind. So Christmas will come and go with its celebrations and good times, but life goes on, returning to the regular ways of living. But by embracing the real meaning and purpose of Jesus Christ's short time on earth, it can greatly enhance the visions and dreams we have for the future, both here and now and for all eternity.

A local Church will always welcome you, who seek to know God and learn of His plans for your life, so I invite you to take that opportunity this Christmas.

The pastors and churches of the Tatiara extend Christmas Blessings and Peace to all people of the South East.

Philip Cornish Bordertown Church of Christ



There will be Christmas church services.

Mass times

Sunday, December 14

- Wolseley Community Church, Wolseley, 11am

Sunday, December 21

- Highway Church, Bordertown, 10am

Sunday, December 21

- Vineyard Church, Bordertown, 10am

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- Lutheran Church, Keith, 8am
- One Church, Keith, 9.30am
- Catholic Church, Bordertown, 11am
- Catholic Church, Keith, 4.30pm
- Catholic Church, Bordertown, 6pm
- St Alphonsus', Millicent, 6pm
- St Paul's, Mount Gambier/Berrin, 6pm
- St Joseph's, Penola, 6pm
- Lutheran Church, Bordertown, 7.30pm
- Church of Christ, Mundulla, 7.30pm
- St Paul's, Mount Gambier/Berrin, 8pm

St Paul's, Mount Gambier/Berrin, Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

- St Augustine's, Port MacDonnell, 9am
- St Brigid's, Beachport, 9am
- Uniting Church, Bordertown, 9.30am
- St Therese's, Kingston, 10am
- St Paul's, Mount Gambier/Berrin, 11am
- Robe Football Club, Robe, 11am

**Wishing OUR CLIENTS
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy & Prosperous New Year.**

Our office will close from
24th December 2025 and
re-open 12th January 2026.

Phone 08 8724 7722

J A Accounting & Tax Services

Head Office: 105 Greenhill Road, Unley SA 5061

Consulting Monthly: 6-8 Elizabeth Street,
Mount Gambier SA 5290

JA
ACCOUNTING &
TAX SERVICES



Christmas lights will be on display across the region this year.

Limestone Coast lights up

2025 Christmas lights list

CITY OF MOUNT GAMBIER

- 26 Navajo Drive Mount Gambier
- 24 Navajo Drive.
- 17 Monash Cres, Mount Gambier
- 12 St Andrew’s Drive, Mount Gambier
- 19 Schnickel Street, Mount Gambier
- 22 Schnickel Street, Mount Gambier
- 21 Shepherdson Road, Mount Gambier
- 8 Wandaree Court, Mount Gambier
- 5/7 Braybrook Court, Mount Gambier
- 27 Carmel Drive, Mount Gambier
- 6 Warren Street, Mount Gambier
- Hilltop Avenue, Mount Gambier
- 5 Blyth street, Mount Gambier
- 2 Sunset drive, Mount Gambier
- Unit 5/16 Kooringa street, Mount Gambier
- 10 Brolga St, Mount Gambier

- 42 Wandaree Court, Mount Gambier
- 5 Woodcrest Close, Mount Gambier
- 17 Gladigau Road, Mount Gambier
- 8 Derwent Court, Mount Gambier
- 7 Shaughnessy Court, Mount Gambier
- 60 Lake Edward Road Glencoe, Mount Gambier
- 3 Stableford Court, Mount Gambier
- 8 Foote Street, Mount Gambier
- 6 Starline Drive, Mount Gambier
- 6 Bellevalle Court, Mount Gambier
- 11 Vaughan Terrace Nangwarry, Mount Gambier
- 25 Douglas Street, Mount Gambier
- Peppercross Court Worrolong, Mount Gambier
- Sandstone Court, Mount Gambier
- Schinkel Street, Mount Gambier

- Jacaranda Court, Mount Gambier
- Mawson Avenue, Mount Gambier

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GRANT

- 8 Peake Terrace Nangwarry.

ROBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

WATTLE RANGE COUNCIL

- 77 Glencoe West Road, Glencoe

NARACOORTE LUCINDALE COUNCIL

- 15 Second Avenue, Naracoorte

KINGSTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 10 Third st, Rosetown

TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Campbell Street, Bordertown
- Hayness street, Bordertown
- 15 Fullarton street, Bordertown