

The gift that keeps giving

MEAGAN MCGREGOR

CHOOSING local businesses when Christmas shopping this year equates to a gift that keeps giving all year round.

One of the most difficult financial years faced by all Australians was spurred by high inflation, no interest rate cuts and skyrocketing living costs.

Swan Hill Incorporated business development manager Stephen Colombo said the benefits of shopping local would have a flow on effect for all community.

"Shopping locally where possible is a huge support to local business, who then in turn can have a wonderful family Christmas too," he said.

"Local businesses employ local staff and often use local services, so by supporting them you are supporting a broader sector of our community.

"And it is literally the gift that keeps on giving as retailers rely heavily on Christmas sales to keep trading through the quieter times of the year.

"Money spent locally also helps boost the local economy and stays within our region to ensure all community can benefit."

While there are some items that cannot be bought locally, Mr Colombo asked that people just keep the local options in mind.

"Many people are surprised to learn that local retailers often sell items

cheaper than they can be sourced online," he said.

"Particularly with sale items or end of line products that are being superseded.

"There is also no cost added for postage or risk that the item won't show up in time, or at all, or arrive damaged.

"By seeing the product, trying it on if relevant or getting advice from retail experts, buyers can eliminate any disappointment on Christmas morning as gifts are exchanged.

"Our local traders are more than happy to assist and if the item is not on the shelf, they will order it in where possible.

"They also honour warranty and guarantee offers and can offer advice on brand, cost differences and in some instances can allow you try items."

Another huge benefit of shopping locally is the Christmas in Swan Hill prize draw.

By shopping at any participating store, you can enter the draw to win a Swan Hill Incorporated \$2000 gift card.

There is also a chance to win various gift cards donated by local stores as well 10 gift cards to the value of \$100 each.

Simply fill out the entry form at participating stores and winners will be notified by phone after the draw on December 24.



Swan Hill Incorporated's Stephen Colombo is urging people to consider buying local this Christmas. Picture: MEAGAN McGREGOR





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Singing in the season

PETER BANNAN

IT is almost time to dust off the carols song book for the annual Swan Hill Carols by Candlelight.

The Christmas spirit will swell at Riverside Park on Sunday, December 15 when the event, presented by Swan Hill Canoe Club. returns.

Last year's carols attracted more than 1500 people, with a fireworks display set to again welcome back a big crowd from

Carollers are invited to enjoy a free sausage sizzle and sing along to traditional Christmas

Organising group member Craig Harvey said the evening was "always a fantastic commu-

nity event".
"Christmas is something that just brings the community together and gives feelings of joy," he said.

"I don't think there are many better venues than at Riverside

Mr Harvey said the night would have something for the whole family and food options would be available.

"This year attendees will be able to kick off the night with a free sausage sizzle," he said.

"We will also have food and drink vans there as well if people are after something other than a sausage or a soft drink.

"There will also be face painting, which the kids always seem to love, and a balloon artist."

Organisers recommend carollers bring along a chair, or a rug to put up their feet and enjoy the festive music.

Mr Harvey said there would be carolling catered for all ages.

"A guest artist will provide a few carols for the kids before the combined churches choir will take the stage."

The Swan Hill Ukulele Group and primary schools will also grace the stage, performing more traditional carols.

"It's important to remember the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus," he said.

Santa will also make a special appearance, and if anything like last year, a sea of children will surge towards the man in red as he hands out treats

Carols by Candlelight at Riverside Park is sure to be a big hit with the whole family

Picture: THE GUARDIAN







The perfect gift idea

MEAGAN McGREGOR

SWAN Hill Incorporated's local gift card is the perfect idea for that hard-to-buy-for family member or friend.

With more than 100 participating stores in Swan Hill and surrounding districts, the card offers a local choice across a large variety of gift options.

The card was developed by company Why Leave Town to help drive more sales to shops in our region, which helps generate revenue throughout the entire community.

Swan Hill Incorporated business development manager Stephen Colombo said purchasing a Swan Hill Gift Card meant the money stayed local.

"Purchasing the card gives you many options of retailers and all of those retailers are local, so the money stays in town," he said.

"You are not limited to just one store when spending the card either, you can use the card at multiple stores, and you have three years to spend the balance.

"Shopping local has the bonus of

trading with local businesses who can offer a more localised service.

"They know our region, and in many cases, they know their customers personally so can offer a very unique and personalised transaction."

Gift cards are sold at various locations in the community (known as load up stores) and can only be redeemed at participating stores (redemption stores).

Operating via EFTPOS, Swan Hill Gift Cards can only be purchased and redeemed at participating stores, meaning that whenever a Swan Hill Gift Card is loaded, you can rest assured that the money will stay within your community.

To check your balance at any time, visit www.whyleavetown.com/community/swan-hill/.

"The participating businesses are an

"The participating businesses are an important part of the wider community," Mr Colombo said.

"Not only are they local, but they also contribute to amazing events in the region including the Swan Hill Food and Wine Festival and Swan Hill Market Day."







61 Victoria Street, Kerang Phone: 5452 1172





Where to spend your Swan Hill Gift Card

- 218 Degrees
- Academy Graphics
- Ag Warehouse
- Arcade Cafe
- Aspire Jewellery
- At Forty One
- Aura Beauty
- Auriel Moon
- Autobarn Swan Hill
- Bakers Delight Swan Hill
- Bakker & Glen
- **Battery Tec**
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- Cellarbrations
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- Central Mallee Osteopathy
- Chasney Estate
- Choices Flooring Swan Hill
- Clarks Gift Salon
- Clarks Home Living
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- Forty Winks Swan Hill
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- Jane Eliza Motor Inn
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- Jilarty Gelato Bar & Cafe
- Kennedy's Showcase Jewellers
- La Mangia Cafe
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- Optus Swan Hill
- Paint Rattle n Roll
- Paper Scissors Rock Hair
- Pete's Hair Studio
- Pizza Kitchen Swan Hill
- Pizzahood
- Poppy and Lola
- Premix King Swan Hill
- Priceline Pharmacy Swan Hill
- Quo Vadis Restaurant & Pizza
- Rivett's Bakery (Chapman St)
- Rivett's Bakery (Safeway Plaza)
- Sait Family Butchers
- Savhoo/Fix2u Swan Hill
- Sister Kode
- Spoons Riverside
- Sports Power Swan Hill
- Stihl Shop Swan Hill
- Sun Centre Carpet Court Swan Hill
- Swan Hill Bakehouse
- Swan Hill Beauty Salon
- Swan Hill Betta Home Living
- Swan Hill Bikes & Trikes
- Swan Hill Disposals and Outdoor Store

- Swan Hill Fishing & Shooting Supplies
- Swan Hill Fresh Produce Collective
- Swan Hill Hire
- Swan Hill Information Centre
- Swan Hill Kia
- Swan Hill Newsagency
- Swan Hill Off Road
- Swan Hill Optical
- Swan Hill Pool & Spa Centre
- Swan Hill Power Products
- Swan Hill Town Hall
- Swan Hill Toyota
- Svd Wilson Auto Electrics
- The Beauty Spot Swan Hill
- The Dandy Lion Studio
- The Little Shoe Shop
- The Port Swan Hill
- The Rustic Ivv The Swan Hill Club
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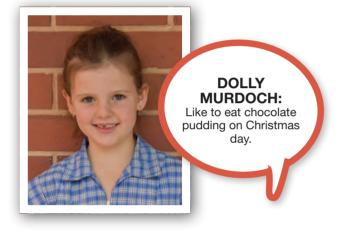
What do you enjoy eating most on Christmas Day?

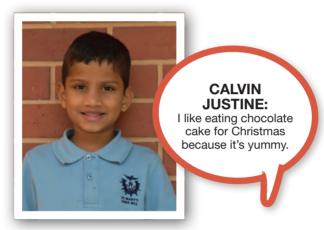
With students from St Mary's Primary School















What do you enjoy eating most on Christmas Day?

With students from Lake Boga Primary School





WYATT HUTCHINSON: I like eating gingerbread cookies the most because they remind me of Christmas time

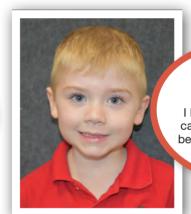




BRIDGET BOYS: I like eating ice cream with a banana on top because it's yummy and it keeps me cook when the weather gets



SOLARA GALLAGHER: I like eating Oreo biscuits because they are my favourite food



SPENCER BAULCH: I love eating candy canes on Christmas because they remind me of Santa



Making Christmas special for all

WILL REID

FOR years A Good Kitchen has been supporting those who are finding it tough and this Christmas they are back again offering a hot meal.

A Good Kitchen is again taking the initiative to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have a hot meal these holidays, particularly as 2024 has proven a tough year for many with the cost-of-living crisis putting strain on families all around the country.

This year's Christmas dinner is being held on Tuesday, December 17, at St Mary's Church conference centre from 6pm to 7 30pm

A Good Kitchen welcomes anyone who feels they need some extra support to register for the event

St Vincent de Paul president Brian Richardson said: "Whether you've had a tough year, having financial issues, new to the area or simply need some support you are more than welcome to come along".

There will also be goodies for the kids with Better Bookkeeping Management partnering up with A Good Kitchen again to host their annual Christmas gift drive.

BBKM has worked alongside A Good Kitchen for many years, bringing the Christmas joy and gifting kids presents donated from generous local businesses and residents.

"This is a very communityoriented event, and we encourage anyone who is willing to donate to buy locally in order to keep funding local businesses," said a Better Bookkeeping Management spokesperson.

Anyone who would like to donate is encouraged to visit the BBKM office where they can receive a card with present ideas from the attending children.

"We are taking donations right up until the 17th of December so be sure to drop off any donations into our office," said a Better Bookkeeping Management spokesperson.

All local donations are requested to be dropped off at the BBKM office at suite 9 194-208 Beveridge Dome, Swan Hill.

To secure your spot for the Christmas dinner please contact Ross Cleeland at St Mary's Church on 0418 532 990

A Good Kitchen secretary Ross Cleeland says this year's Christmas dinner is being held on Tuesday, December 17 at St Mary's Church conference centre.





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Engines rev for toy run appeal

THE highways around the district thundered with the sound of engines from motorbikes and cars as the 10th annual Gannawarra Memorial Toy Run set off from Leitchville on November 23.

The group headed for Kerang where a traditional Lions Club breakfast of bacon and egg rolls awaited.

They left Kerang at 9.30am towards Barham where gifts were collected and a morning tea shared.

Next stop was Cohuna where lunch and an afternoon of festivities was enjoyed.

Those taking part in the ride made a donation to the cause via an entry fee and all gifts and donations will be remain in the district and be distributed by Cohuna and Kerang Neighborhood houses and St Vincent's de Paul.

Cash donations are used to purchase supermarket vouchers









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Nyah's Christmas spirit

THE NYAH District Christmas Carnival will return for an evening of community revelry at the Nyah Recreation Reserve from 6pm on Friday December 6.

A chance to kick-off the festive season in the sunshine with friends and family, the annual carnival hosted by the Nyah District Action Group (NDAG) has something to entertain everyone.

NDAG secretary Vicki Allen said there's always a great atmosphere in the reserve.

"It's run by our community for our community and we do what we can to make it affordable and enjoyable for families," she said.

"Ride tickets are subsidised, we have the Swan Hill Library Van coming to read a Christmas story for the children and of course Santa will make an ap-

pearance

"Kerang Rotary will once again bring the train as they have done for 50 years and Billabong Ranch will have camels, horse rides, horse and cart rides and the baby animal nursery."

As well as children's entertainment, there will be food stalls, market stalls from local crafters and producers, a live music set from Drowning Sorrows, all capped off with a fireworks display once the sun sets.

"Any event with Drowning Sorrows playing is going to be a good night," Mrs Allen said.

Headspace, the Swan Hill police community liaison team and Nyah District Fire Brigade will also be there and SmartFM will host a live broadcast.

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The whole community comes together for fun, laughs and holiday spirit at the Nyah District Christmas Carnival.

LEFT: The Kerang Rotary Club train will be back on track at the Nyah District Christmas Carnival.

Pictures: Lillian Altman

RIGHT: Camel and horse rides will be available for children.

Picture: Michelle Brady







CHRISTMA

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PEAR, BRIE AND **PROSCIUTTO WEDGES**

Simple, fresh and a little bit fancy, these bites are a perfect addition to any spread.

Ingredients for 6 servings:

- 2 large pears, quartered, cored, cut into wedges
- 200g brie, cut into long thin slices
- 24 baby rocket leaves
- 12 shaved slices of prosciutto, halved lengthways
- Balsamic glaze, to serve

Method:

- 1. Place a slice of brie and a rocket leaf onto each pear wedge.
- 2. Wrap a strip of prosciutto around pear, cheese and rocket.
- 3. Place onto a plate or platter. Drizzle with balsamic glaze if preferred and serve.

BEETROOT CURED SALMON

This salmon is a set-and-forget twist on a summer

Ingredients for 10 servings:

- 250g cooked and peeled beetroot
- 175g coarse sea salt
- 110g caster sugar
- 3 tsp caraway seeds, crushed
- 3 tsp white peppercorns, crushed
- 1kg salmon fillet (skin on), pin-boned
- Crackers and micro rocket, to serve

- 1. To make the curing mixture, whiz the beetroot, salt, sugar, caraway seeds and pepper in a food processor until smooth.
- 2. Spread half the curing mixture over the base of a glass or ceramic dish large enough to hold salmon. Add the salmon, skin-side down, and cover with remaining curing mixture. Cover with plastic wrap, then rest a smaller tray or chopping board on top of the salmon and weigh down with a few cans. Chill for 2 days to cure.
- 3. When ready to serve, remove salmon from dish, rinse under cold water and pat dry with paper towel. Using a sharp knife, thinly slice salmon on an angle, using the knife to release salmon from the skin.
- 4. Arrange salmon on a platter and serve with crackers and micro rocket.





NO-BAKE PULL-APART PAVLOVA WREATH

Quintessentially Australian and easy to make and share with your loved ones, this pavlova wreath will delight at any Christmas party.

Ingredients:

- 2 packets petite meringues or pavlova nests
- 600 pls thickened cream
- 1/4 cup icing sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- ½ cup lemon curd
- 1 cup fresh berries

Mini meringues (for the topping) You could also just crash some of the leftover pavlova nests

• 1 tablespoon lcing sugar to dust

Method:

- 1. Lay out the mini pavlova nests or petite meringues in a wreath shape on a large round
- 2. Using an electric mixer, combine thickened cream, 1/4 cup icing sugar, and 1 teaspoon vanilla essence until thick. Pipe the whipped cream on each of the pavlovas. Pipe all of the whipped cream into all of the gaps.
- 3. Spoon the lemon curd or passionfruit over the top of the pavlova wreath.
- 4. Top with fresh berries and mini meringues.
- 5. Sift the icing sugar over the top and serve.





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Christmas craft ideas

('innamon ornaments

FILL your house with the smell of festive spices with these ornaments that are a rustic spin on the traditional salt dough. Swap cinnamon for nutmeg or allspice for

EQUIPMENT

- Straw
- Rolling Pin
- Cookie cutters Supplies
- 1 cup ground cinnamon
- ¾ cup natural unsweetened applesauce
- 2 tbsp white glue
- Leaves for pressing

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Mix your cinnamon and applesauce. Once mixed, add in your glue. The more you knead the dough, the better the consistency will get.
- 2. Dust your benchtop with cinnamon. Knead the dough into a smooth ball and then roll it out to a 1/2 inch circle. If edges split, put it back into a ball and re-roll



until smooth. Use cinnamon as you might flour to keep the dough from sticking to your benchtop.

- 3. Press leaves into the dough to create imprints. Roll them gently with the rolling pin.
- 4. Use cookie cutters to cut out the shapes around the leaf imprints.
- 5. Make a hole for the string with a straw.
- 6. Place them in an oven at 100 degrees for a few hours, keeping an eye on them to make sure they don't dry out or bake.
- 7. Thread twine through the ornaments once dry and hang them on the tree.

Upcycled Santa Milo tin vase

- Empty Milo or coffee tin
- Red spraypaint
- Glitter
- Old belt
- Tree cuttings, a miniature tree or any other decorations

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Coat the tin with red paint
- 2. Rim the top and bottom with glue and dust with
- 3. Hot glue an old belt in place
- 4. Fill with your decorations



Fairy gumput ornaments

GET the kids into the festive season too with a quick forage for gumnuts and some fun, easy craft.

SUPPLIES:

- Large gumnuts
- Scissors
- · Acrylic paints and brushes
- Cardboard or cereal box
- Gold pen (optional)
- Coloured felt
- Large and small wooden beads
- Black felt tip pen
- · String or gold cord
- · Hot glue gun and glue sticks

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Paint your gumnuts.
- 2. Draw a wing shape on cardboard; cut out, then trace onto a larger piece of card until you have enough for two wings for each fairy. Cut wings out; decorate with gold pen or paint.
- 3. Draw a collar shape and a small flower on your felt and cut out a pairof each
- 4. Take the large bead and draw a simple face using the black felt tip pen. Use your finger and some acrylic



paint to make a small round spot for each cheek.

5. Cut a length of string and hot glue it in a loop through the top of the small bead to make a loop.













46 Moulamein Rd, Barham P: (03) 5453 2354





/olunteers at the Grain Shed in 2023 helping to fill the hampers. Pictures: Supplied

Grain Shed Pastor Jodie Grant said there will be over 860 hampers to fill this year.

'Tis the season for giving

SUNEHRA AHMED

DOZENS of volunteers from different community services will be gathering at the The Grain Shed Church to pack over 860 Hampers of Hope containing essential food items.

The hampers started out as small shopping bags to give out to community members after the Grain Shed's annual Christmas lunch was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID.

lockdowns.

Now, each box will have about \$40 worth of non-perishable food items such as pasta, Weet-Bix, long-life milk and honey among other items.

Associate Pastor at The Grain Shed Church Jodie Grant said volunteers will spend an entire day packing the hampers which will then be delivered to different services in the community for people to access. "It's just so we can help people ease the burden of Christmas as there are lots of costs associated with the season that some people cannot afford," she said.

"Food is something that everyone needs. This allows families to spend a little bit more on something to help make Christmas celebrations better, whether that be toys or special food for Christmas."

Ms Grant said "packing day" will

have volunteers organise a production line to fill the boxes.

"We have it set up almost like a conveyor belt and each person has an items to pack in the box," she said.

"So each person puts one item in and pushes the box along until someone tapes it up and then puts it over in the corner to be collected."

"Then they'll go to our service

providers, such as MDAS, Mallee Family Care, Salvos, school chaplains and other services who will then distribute them to the community."

Ms Grant said most volunteers will be from the local service providers

"It's great because most of them come along and help pack and we also provide lunch for them on the day," she said.



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10 family Christmas movies

CHRISTMAS is an exciting time for the whole family but extra special for the younger family members.

A STATE OF THE STA

Putting up the Christmas tree, setting out decorations, preparing for a visit from santa and Christmas carols are just part of what brings the season to life.

One of my favourite memories of Christmas was the whole family sitting together to enjoy a Christmas movie. It didn't matter if you had already watched it, there was just something magical about sitting together, eating popcorn, and drinking egg nogg that made Christmas movies so much cosier than any other.

From the classic 1947 classic Miracle on 34th Street to the 1996 comedy Jingle all the way, Christmas movies have been setting the scene of Christmas for families for generations.

- 1. The Moodys (2012) An Australian family gathers for Christmas. Love them or hate them, your family is for life and forever. Whatever happens, your family loves to welcome you home for Christmas. But did you really want to be there?
- 2. Miracle on 34th Street (1947) A lawyer and a little girl must prove that a man claiming to be Santa Claus is the real thing. A remake version (1994) is also available.
- 3. Home Alone (1990) An eightyear-old troublemaker, mistakenly left home alone, must defend his home against a pair of burglars on Christmas eve.
- 4. Jingle All The Way (1996) A father vows to get his son a Turbo Man action figure for Christmas. However, every store is sold out, and he must travel all over town and compete with everybody else to find one.

- 5. One Magic Christmas (1985) An angel must show a mother the true meaning of Christmas. It's not just presents and materialistic things, but the people she cares about.
- 6. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) - The Griswold family's plans for a big family Christmas predictably turn into a big disaster.
- 7. The Christmas Chronicles (2018)
- The story of sister and brother, Kate and Teddy Pierce, whose Christmas Eve plan to catch Santa Claus on camera turns into an unexpected journey that most kids could only dream about.
- 8. Annabelle's Wish (1997) A mute boy and a calf with the ability to speak form a deep friendship, learning what it means to love and sacrifice for another.

- 9. A Christmas Carol (1984 and 1999) - A bitter old miser who rationalizes his uncaring nature learns real compassion when three spirits visit him on Christmas Eve.
- 10. Prancer (1989) A farm girl nurses a wounded reindeer she believes is one of Santa's. hoping to bring it back to health in time for Christmas. Her holiday spirit inspires those around her, something her disheartened father is having trouble understanding.







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DECEMBER 1

Swan Hill Market 9am - 3pm **Riverside Park**

Join us on Sunday, December 1st for a magical day at the Swan Hill Christmas Market from 9am to 3pm.

Come along and make a day of it - browse the market stalls, enjoy some live music, and get into the Christmas spirit.

Swan Hill Elf on the Shelf Competition

The beloved Swan Hill Elf on the Shelf is back for another season of holiday fun. Running from December 1to December 23, this festive scavenger hunt invites everyone to explore the Christmas-themed window displays of local businesses, searching for hidden elves.

Participating businesses will hide a unique elf in their window displays and each elf will have an assigned a number.

Visit each display and try to find the elf. Find all the elves and complete the checklist by matching the elf to its location for a chance to win a \$250 Swan Hill gift card! Entry forms can be picked up from the Swan Hill Region Information Centre.

Upon completion of your search, drop the completed form to Swan Hill region Information Centre or The Dandy Lion Studio. Winner will be drawn December 24.

Lake Boga Carols By Candlelight 6.30pm - 8pm

Lake Boga Foreshore, near Catalina Flying Boat Museum, Lake Boga

Join in a magical evening of Christmas carols by the serene foreshore of Lake Boga. Bring your own seating and get into the community Christmas spirit by sharing an evening of carol singing by the lake.

DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 24

Christmas Photos DIY 10am Dec 3 - midday Dec 24 The Dandy Lion Studio, 7 Rutherford St. Swan Hill

DECEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 11

Christmas Wonderland 10am Dec 4 - 4pm Dec 11 Swan Hill town hall

The perfect opportunity to take photos with your family and friends using the wonderland as your backdrop.

Bookings are not essential but, if you are bringing a large group please contact the

DECEMBER 06

Nyah District Christmas Carnival 6pm - 9pm Nyah Rec Reserve, River Street, Nyah

DECEMBER 13

Robinvale - Euston Christmas Carnival 5pm - 9pm Perrin Street, Robinvale

DECEMBER 15

Christmas on Karinie 9am - 1pm 105 Karinie Street, Swan Hill

A Christmas shopping event with an arrange of stalls from small local businesses including Bean Hopper, barbecue breaky and face painting for the kids young and old.

Carols by Candlelight (Free)

Join us for a special evening of festive cheer as we sing Christmas carols at Riverside Park

Piangil Community Christmas Party 6.30pm - 9.30pm Piangil Community Centre, 8 Beveridge Street, Piangil B.Y.O. drinks and folding chairs. Please bring a salad or a desert to share. All meats are supplied. Santa will make an appearance later in the evening.

Annual Wemen Christmas Tree Event

Join us for the annual Christmas Tree event at Wemen. A magical evening where the community comes together to celebrate.

DECEMBER 18

Summer Drag Bingo Christmas Extravaganza 6.30pm - 9.30pm Swan Hill Club, 5/17 McCallum St,

Get ready for the ultimate festive showdown as Dragged To takes over The Swan Hill Club with a Christmas spectacular like no other.

DECEMBER 22

Manangatang Christmas Carols 7.30pm Manangatang Public Hall, Wattle Street, Manangatang

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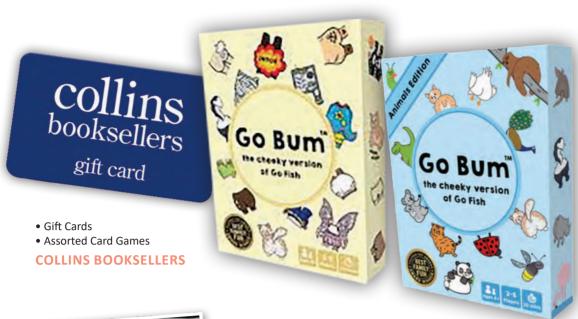
Lots of stock available to choose from or let them choose with a Ciff Clouchet from WISHART'S THE JEWELLER KERANG



We are there for you!



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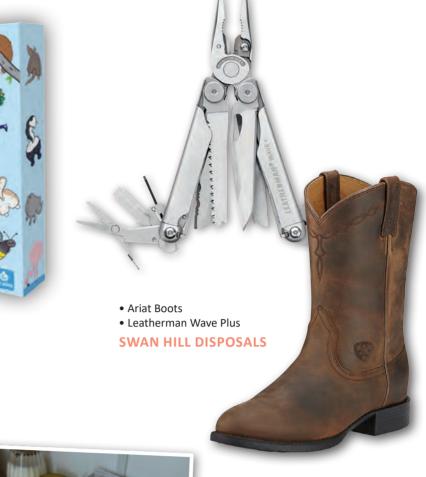




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Floral arrangements



A little giving goes a long way

MEAGAN McGREGOR

RAY White Swan Hill has launched into the Christmas season by opening its official Little Ray of Giving Christmas Appeal.

Owner Cameron Smits said the Ray White appeal was a nationwide initiative, but all gifts collected locally remained local.

"The Ray of Giving gift appeal is something we are always pleased to be a part of because it is a way to support the community that supports us," Mr Smits said.

"The gifts we collect are passed on to Mallee Family Care (MFC) who then disperse them to people who might be doing it tough at Christmas or perhaps they're going to spend the day on their own.

"It's about making sure everyone feels connected at Christmas, to reduce the feelings of loneliness and isolation a little."

Mr Smits requested that donation gifts not be wrapped so that MFC staff can best match gift choices to recipients.

"We are more than happy to receive gifts suited to all ages including adults, but we do often find there is a shortage of gifts appropriate for teenagers

"If anyone is stuck for an idea, something for the ages of 12 to 17 would be appreci-

Mr Smits also said his team were more than happy to purchase gifts on the donor's

"We are able to select something and place it under the tree and send a photo to show what was purchased on their behalf," he said.

"Often people are busy with harvest at this time of year, so we're more than happy to

MAILBOX TO SANTA ACCEPTING LETTERS

SANTA has again engaged the services of Ray White in Swan Hill to help assist in the large volume of letters he receives at Christmas time.

The team at Ray White take the job very seriously, ensuring all letters are hand-delivered to avoid any cyber risks.

'We will make sure every letter arrives to Santa well before Christmas and bring back response letters from Santa," Mr Smits said.

"Last year we had many children receive a reply from the big guy in the red suit and they were sent on beautiful old-fashioned paper.

"We have our special North Pole Direct mailbox set up in our reception area and can't wait to deliver special letters to and from Santa."

Mr Smits did suggest that all mail to Santa be posted by Monday, December 16 to allow time for delivery and response from Santa.

help out where we can."

Those wishing to donate a pre-purchased gift can drop it in to Ray White Real Estate in Swan Hill at 199 Campbell Street.

Other businesses who would like to donate gifts to the appeal will receive a wreath decal to thank them for supporting the community.

To find out more, drop into the Ray White office or call 5032 2507.



Drop donations into Ray White Swan Hill to support husband and wife Cameron and Taree Smits with the Little Ray of Sunshine Christmas Appeal. Pictures: MEAGAN McGREGOR

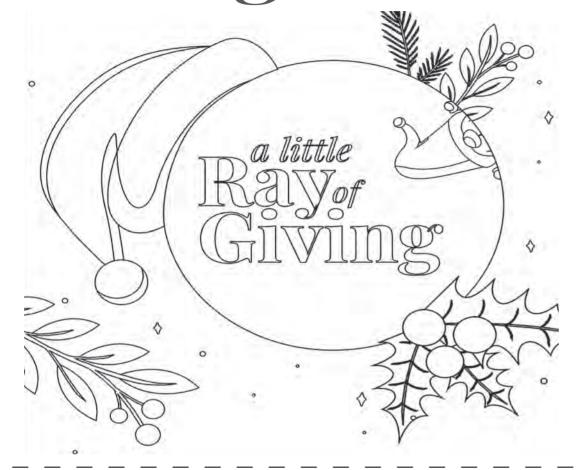




208 Campbell Street, **SWAN HILL** | (03) 5032 5385

a little COLOURING COMPETITION

RayWhite.



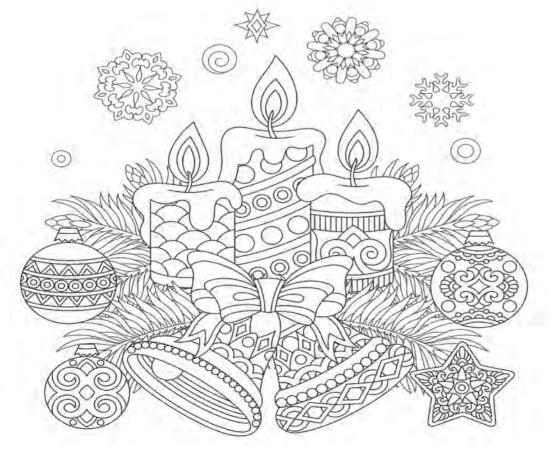
For the Kids

WIN 1 OF 4 \$50 **SWAN HILL GIFT CARDS**

Entry Details

Name:
Age:
Parents Name:
Phone:
Email:





For the Adults

WIN 1 OF 2 \$100 **SWAN HILL GIFT CARDS**

Entry Details

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Age:	
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Drawn December 20, 2024 - Winners will be notified

Simply drop entries into Ray White Swan Hill by 5pm December 19, 2024



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NOV-DEC 2024



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3 Men's Bug Cap

4 Adult Trucker Caps 8 Stubby Holder

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