



Christmas in our culture is a time for celebration, for connection and family, for sharing, for giving and receiving, for delicious food, for fun and laughter and all things merry and bright. Christmas tunes emanate from every corner. Shops adorned with all manner of Christmas paraphernalia tempt with their sparkling ware and lure us into buying things we neither need nor (sometimes) really want. Well, it is Christmas after all and, thankfully, most of us are in the fortunate position of enjoying all this season has to offer.

Most Christmas tunes put a smile on my face but a song whose sentiment I particularly like is: “Let there be Peace on Earth”. Unfortunately, however, even though I’ve had the pleasure of experiencing nothing but blessed peace in my small corner of the world, this song now mainly serves to remind me of the sad fact that our planet is as far as ever from realising such a state. Whilst I don’t want to spoil your Christmas joy it would be very remiss of me to blithely ignore this fact. Although I am but a small cog in the large planetary wheel called earth, I still have the power to ease someone’s pain, to give to a cause that might put a smile on the face of a child or ignite a glimmer of hope in the heart of a mother. No matter how small my offering may be I am sure that every gesture counts. So, with this in mind my Christmas wish is that each one of us who are so lucky to be living in peace will share a little of that joy with someone in need.

Those of you are not familiar with the song “Peace on Earth” can [click here](#) for a rendition.

Those of you who don’t shy away for a more confrontational version of that song, [click here](#).

The biblical scholars amongst you might like to explore the origin of the phrase. If so, [click here](#).

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN U3A:

As your committee we are grateful that we can report yet another year of successful operation. Although the year has not been without its challenges - having to farewell some of our faithful older members, needing to let go of some cherished programs, witnessing how already very busy committee members were carrying a number of roles that could and should be filled by one of our many general members - it has overall been a good and satisfying year.

To finish 2024 in a worthy fashion our AGM will be followed by a celebratory luncheon at Tillerman’s Restaurant for which you have, hopefully, made your booking.

The last major event for which no booking is necessary will be our Christmas Carol morning, to be held at the Baptist Church Hall on December 4th. More info can be found in the side panel on the next page).

TECH TIPS:

Travelling with Technology - Dos and Don'ts

Visiting relatives, taking a long-needed vacation, delivering presents just like Santa; there are a lot of reasons people travel during the holidays. Here are some tech tips for travel so you don't have to worry while you're dashing to your connecting flight on Christmas Eve.

-Make sure to power down your laptop, tablet, or other devices before stowing it for travel. Don't just put it to sleep.

-Keep your original power adapters close and don't lose them! Beware, many third-party power adapters are not made well and can cause problems with your device's battery or power supply. And don't even think of buying a power adapter overseas; voltage differences can cause huge issues with your tech.

-Turn down the brightness on your display. The battery will last longer, and your eyes won't be as strained; it's a win-win.

-Avoid exposure to extreme temperatures. If the device does become extremely hot or cold, let it return to normal room temperature before you turn it on.



Community Christmas Carol singing with

CHOIR

We invite you to join us...

WHEN: Wednesday 4 December
WHERE: Baptist Church Hall, Tea Gardens
TIME: 10-11am Followed by a delicious Morning Tea.

Seasons' Greetings,

Please feel Welcome to join us, and join in singing, at our final choir session of the year.
This choir session will incorporate community singing + we would like to sing you a small sample of the coral arrangements that we have enjoyed singing through the year.

Live, laugh and learn with Myall U3A!



We are happy that we have managed to fill almost all available Committee positions by now but are still looking for a Vice President. If you feel that you can be this person, please get in touch with us by [clicking here](#). We are a bunch of pretty relaxed, fun-loving folk who enjoy our post-retirement positions. Our President is awesome but would be very grateful to have someone to help him carry his load.



DID YOU KNOW that:

- Our wonderful Art Group recently, for the third year running, delivered beautiful Christmas cards which they'd lovingly created for the precious seniors who live in our local nursing homes. As always, these were very well received and brought lovely smiles to many faces.
- Our local author, former Course Co-ordinator and treasured member of our Writer's Group has won 1st price in this year's Port Stephens Literature Award Competition for short stories with his entry, 'Surf Break.' He also picked up a Highly Commended for another short story, entitled 'Career Change.' Any interested members wishing to obtain a free copy can send their request by [clicking here](#) and writing 'short story please' in the subject line.

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