



GARDEN GATES NOVEMBER 09 NEWSLETTER



SURVIVAL TIPS FOR A JOLLY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Hi, this is Ann Bianco from Macarthur Diversity Services Inc., Community Facilitator, engaged by Landcom to deliver the Garden Gates "Welcome Program".

We are in the run-down for Christmas and I can imagine most of you are feeling we are only just recovering from Christmas in 08!

I absolutely adore Christmas and enjoy all the hype associated with it even down to already admiring the very early Christmas decorations now being displayed in the shops.

I hope you may find even one tip that is useful to you in this newsletter that will help you enjoy the 'Festive Season' more so here they are:

My family including the extended family has elected to keep Christmas presents to a minimum. How we do this is to employ the 'Kris Kringle' method (although the children are excepted). That means we draw one name out of a hat and that is the only person you have to find a present for. We make a unanimous decision on what the limit is to be spent on the present too. My family has stuck to a \$20 limit for the past 10 years and at times the presents have been hilarious in their imagination. I also make it a point to pick up bargains in the post Christmas sales to cash-in on the store's bargain prices when they are clearing out their now unneeded Christmas stock.

Christmas stockings are always displayed and filled. Into those I pop those essential items we always need like make-up, toiletries, chocolates, pens, CDs, underwear, movie tickets etc. Again, these are items I collect over a period of time and the cost is spread out without it becoming a burden.

I shop all year; I love a bargain and also make it a point to 'snoop' around at the end of June stock take sales too. The majority of my Christmas shopping is usually completed without battling the crowds in the mall and without hassling for a parking space.

For the Christmas dinner we collectively decide on a menu and then each family elects their choice on what to bring to the feast. The saving is enormous on both the pocket and time spent in the kitchen. Sometimes one member of the family is responsible for the table decorations and possibly the style of the dinner i.e. sit-down, buffet, catered, bbq etc.

What about all those Christmas cards you send out each year? Have you ever considered putting your mailing list onto a database? This definitely saves on time and writer's cramp! What about tucking in a family newsletter with the card? The personal touch will make your card all the more special and welcomed. You can buy Christmas computer paper at newsagents.

Santa Claus always pays us a visit after our Christmas feast! When he arrives we are seated and waiting in anticipation. He always brings a little elf to help hand out the presents that have mysteriously accumulated in a sack under the Christmas Tree. After he has departed on his merry way one at a time, we open our presents. This gives everyone the opportunity to make comments, laugh and admire the gifts.

I have also resisted eating two major meals on the same day. There is nothing worse than the feeling of having over eaten which is usually the case if you don't want to offend your host. To get around this we alternate each year whose parents we visit on Christmas day thereby celebrating Christmas twice on separate weekends, what a bonus!

And the very last thing, we throw some extra pocket money to willing workers to clear the tables and wash-up. That way we have willing hands, we stay stress free, and a wonderful time is had by all.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**DON'T FORGET HALLOWEEN ON 31ST OCTOBER.
KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THOSE LITTLE 'TRICK OR TREATERS'!**





WARNING!!!

GARDEN GATES CHRISTMAS PARTY AHEAD!!!

WHEN: Saturday 28th November

TIME: 4.30pm – 7.30pm

WHERE: Reserve on Aristida Circuit below the playground near Laurina Street.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT

DETAILS OF THE PARTY WILL BE IN THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Please remember to bring a little gift for the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal. Your gift will go to brighten someone's day.

Gifts do not need to be purchased from Kmart. Stores simply act as facilitators, enabling welfare groups to reach the wider public. Just place a gift tag specifying age and gender of a suitable recipient.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR

We had a great time at our last 'meet your neighbour' and it's on again this month by popular demand. No need to cook as I will be spoiling you with dinner along with refreshments and or a glass of wine. This is a great way to relax with time out as there's also a sitter to look after the little ones while you unwind and recharge your batteries. This is a free event sponsored by Landcom.

Please note this will be the last 'Meet your Neighbour' for 09 but we will return end of January 2010.

WHEN: Friday 30th October

TIME: 6 - 7.30 pm

WHERE: Landcom Sales Office on Mount Annan Drive

RSVP: Bookings essential for catering and 'sitter' arrangements
Contact Ann on 0407 280 333.

HEART FOUNDATION WALKING CLUB

WHEN: Every Sunday from 4pm

WHERE: Meet at the ½ basketball court

DETAILS: Michael - 0402 048 243

Come on a lovely walk along the river at Lambeth Street Reserve and a free healthy brunch afterwards. Please bring along your family and friends.

WHEN: Wednesday 4 November 9.30am, registration 9.15am

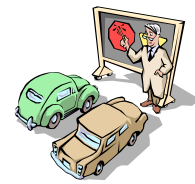
WHERE: Lambeth St Reserve, Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point

WHAT: 5km walk along the Georges River

RSVP: To Ann for catering purposes - 0407 280 333



COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



COFFEE CLUB



WHEN: Every Tuesday from 1.30 pm

WHERE: Lake Side Café

DETAILS: Lisa - 0409 392 239

PLAYGROUP

WHEN: Every Thursday 10 am
except school holidays

WHERE: Flower Power

Details: Ann - 0407 280 333

WIN... A FREE FAMILY DINNER!

During October and November every time you come to one of the activities listed under the 'Community Notice Board' you will go in the draw to win a family dinner at Hogs Breath Café in Narellan.

