

DEC 2021

Riverland Christmas

GIFT GUIDE



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All events are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please keep up-to-date with what's happening via the Murray Pioneer or The Border Times.

DEC 2021
Riverland Christmas
GIFT GUIDE

Welcome to the 2021 Riverland Christmas Gift Guide.

THE festive season is well and truly upon us, with Christmas drawing near, and communities across the Riverland and Mallee having events planned for the whole family to enjoy. In this edition of the Christmas Guide we showcase many wonderful town events across the region, plus we've included an extensive gift guide with ideas for mum, dad, the kids, and our furry friends, all from local businesses.

The Christmas season will shine bright, with events in Loxton, Waikerie, Barmera, Renmark and Berri, and in the Mallee. The Riverland has many amazing choices for some Christmas retail therapy, so grab your mates or

family members and make a day of it by shopping local and giving the gift of the region's finest. And remember, when you purchase your Christmas gifts from local businesses, you're helping to support local members of your community. The winner and runners-up of The Murray Pioneer's Christmas story-writing competition are announced today, with the winner's story also published. Keep an eye out in the paper this month to read more Riverland children's Christmas stories. We wish all of our amazing readers and local businesses a very merry Christmas.

- The Taylor Group team



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Loxton Christmas

ALREADY known as the Riverland's Christmas town, Loxton will take its festive spirit to the next level this year.

This year, the Loxton Lights Festival is celebrating 30 years and promises to be a celebration of fun and colour.

Its month-long festival will feature activities galore, brilliant lights displays and extended trading hours for all your Christmas shopping needs.

As part of the Loxton Lights Festival, which runs from November 27 to

December 31, old favourite fixtures like Christmas Wonderland, Santa's Walk and Bike the Night will delight locals and visitors yet again.

A special feature this year will be the Shine event, which is a fully illustrated and animated Christmas lights spectacular to be projected onto St Peter's Lutheran Church.

Take a wander down East Terrace and be enchanted by the street's trees lit up with a magical light show. Or take

a walk around town and see how the Loxton community fulfils its mission to beautifully decorate local homes.

Christmas Wonderland is always a highlight and a favourite among families from across the entire Riverland.

Santa's Walk is comprised of dozens of homes decorated to perfection and well worth a visit.

So, make sure you spend some time in Loxton this Christmas.



Santa's Workshop

Riverland Motor Group, 1 East Terrace

Children can visit Father Christmas in his magical workshop and receive a free gift.

9am to 7pm Saturday, November 27.

Also, from 10am to 2pm on Sunday, December 5, Sunday, December 12 and Sunday, December 19.

Professional photos available.

Christmas Tree Festival

Gold coin entry. CWA Hall, Kokoda Terrace. Open daily from 11am to 4pm, November 27 to December 12.

Celebrating 25 years, the Christmas Tree Festival is a delightful display of trees, decorated by local community groups and schools.

Craft Fair

Sunday, November 28, 10am to 3pm. Loxton RSL Hall, Tobruk Terrace. Admission is free.

The Christmas Craft Fair will feature a variety of local, handcrafted and baked goods. Unique Christmas gifts are a specialty at the fair.

Loxton Light Show

Viewing times are 8.30pm to 11pm every night from November 27 to December 31.

The avenue of trees in the centre of East Terrace become the feature of a magical light show every night. Thirty large spotlights illuminate the trees, creating a beautiful sequence of colour and movement.

Peace, Joy and Merry

Viewing times are 8.30pm to 11pm every night from November 27 to December 31.

Restored and relocated from their original site in Rundle Mall, these oversized and illuminated words are a gorgeous 'photo-worthy' addition to East Terrace on the lawns above the Charles Sturt Memorial plinth.

Christmas Wonderland

8.30pm to 11pm every night from November 27 to December 31.

With illuminated displays and festive light stretching over 250 metres, Christmas Wonderland is exactly as wondrous as it sounds. This privately-owned display draws visitors from all over the Riverland and beyond. Experience the magic and create lifelong memories with your family during the festive season. Christmas Wonderland is a 'must see' while in Loxton.

Shine, Little Town Christmas

From 8pm every night from Friday, December 17 to Friday, December 24.

St Peter's Lutheran Church will be home to a beautiful Christmas feature. Shine is a fully-illustrated and animated Christmas lights spectacular, projected onto the face of the church.

The projection will be on rotation, while the event will feature food and market stalls, artistic displays and music.

Santa's Walk

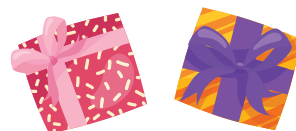
Hilbig Street

A group of locals have long lit up the streets of Loxton, leading to what is now known as Santa's Walk. Families can experience the captivating Christmas lights along Hilbig Street – where the trail begins – and its surrounds.

Community Carols

From 7pm on Sunday, December 12. BYO chairs, rugs, candles, lanterns and torches. Event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather.

Get the family together for Loxton's very own Carols by Candlelight. The combined churches of Loxton invite you to come together and sing along to your favourite carols at the town oval on Bookpurnong Terrace.



Shop local this Christmas

Regular shopping hours Monday to Friday and Saturday to midday. Special Sunday trading on the 5th, 12th and 19th from 10am to 2pm.

The Loxton Chamber of Commerce invite you to shop local this year and enjoy Loxton's bustling shopping precinct.

For further information visit the website (loxtonchamber.com.au).

Christmas Nostalgia

Permanently displayed in the Loxton Newsagency, 12 East Terrace, during normal trading hours.

Take a step back in time and re-live Christmas traditions over many decades at the Christmas Nostalgia display in the Loxton Newsagency. A colourful, historic display of all things Christmas from goose feather and novel trees to unique decorations and toys.

Bike the Night

Weather permitting. Sunday, December 19, from 8pm.

If you're looking for a different way of viewing all the wonderful Loxton light displays then look no further than Bike the Night. Bring your family to Heritage Park to decorate your bikes or scooters (and yourself) with free glow sticks before riding off to explore the streets in and around Santa's Walk. Then return to enjoy refreshments from Little Miss Daisy Pop Up Caravan.

Festival Ferris Wheel

Murray Street crossover, East Terrace from Saturday, November 27, to Sunday, December 5. 6pm-10pm weeknights, 10am-late on weekends.

What better way to experience the magic of Loxton than from a Ferris wheel. To celebrate the first week of the Christmas Lights Festival you can ride the Ferris wheel in East Terrace. Take in the unique and spectacular views of the Murray River and surrounds by day, or enjoy the romance and magic of Loxton's Christmas lights by night.

Waikerie Christmas

WAIKERIE is the ideal place to celebrate Christmas and is quickly becoming known as Destination Christmas.

The community has been working hard to abide by Covid-19 restrictions and ensure the town can still enjoy the festive season.

Visit the Christmas Tree Trail in Waikerie's Federation Park, behind the Rain Moth Gallery.

The 130 beautiful 3D wooden Christmas trees, which are 2.4m or 1.8m tall and lit by solar lights, have been up since November 22 and reflect the close knit community spirit of the town.

The project is an initiative of the District Council of Loxton Waikerie and the Waikerie Christmas Decoration Working Group and is in its third year.

Working Group spokesperson, Donna Matthews, said community groups, schools and local businesses were all invited to decorate a tree.

"They were able to decorate it with their

own choice of theme and colour," Ms Matthews said.

The Christmas trees will be on display until January 16.

Waikerie's famous Santa's Cave at the Waikerie Institute will have more activities for the children this year following an easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

The global pandemic last year prevented Santa from coming to the cave, but this year he will be back.

The cave opened on November 27 and closes on Christmas Eve.

Waikerie Santa's Cave committee secretary, Jan Centofanti, said a grant obtained from the District Council of Loxton Waikerie enabled them to purchase a new chair for Santa.

Children can visit Santa at the cave during the school term from 3.00pm to 4.00pm each weekday.

During the weekends and school holidays he will be at the cave from

10.00am to 4.00pm.

Mrs Centofanti said people will be able to purchase Christmas gifts and the committee has made about 450 bags of honey biscuits to sell.

More magical Christmas displays and lights will be featured this year including Anthony Leske's toy machine and the popular Ferris wheel.

On December 18, the Waikerie Rotary Riverfront Christmas Night Market will be the ideal venue to share some festive cheer.

The event will be licensed and feature a variety of stalls including food, local produce, candles, clothing and skincare.

Waikerie Rotary Riverfront Christmas Night Market coordinator, Sonia Fowler, said Santa is expected to be at the market to greet the children and it will be the ideal place for Christmas shopping.

"You will have the opportunity to purchase some lovely Christmas gifts made by local craftspeople," she said.

Christmas Tree Trail

November 22, 2021 until January 16, 2022

Waikerie's Christmas Tree Trail in Federation Park behind the Rain Moth Gallery features more than 130 3D wooden trees, which are 2.4m or 1.8m tall and have been decorated by local schools, community groups, and businesses. The perfect time to visit is at dusk. Following the switching on of the Norfolk Pine's Christmas lights, the solar lights on the trees along the trail will gradually turn on.



Santa's Cave

Open from November 27 until Christmas Eve. 10am-4pm at the Waikerie Institute

The elf count and the jolly man in the red suit both return to Santa's Cave this year. Children can count how many elves are in the cave and be rewarded with a lollipop. Visitors to the cave will see more magical Christmas displays than last year, due to an easing in some Covid-19 restrictions. Locally made gifts and Waikerie's famous honey biscuits will be available to purchase.

Waikerie Rotary Riverfront Christmas Night Market

Saturday December 18, 4pm-9pm.

Enjoy Christmas festivities at the Christmas Night Market on Waikerie's river front. The perfect place to buy presents a week before Christmas. A selection of handmade products from local craftspeople are on offer, as well as skin care and clothing. Food and local produce will also be available. Expect a visit from Santa Claus.

Waikerie Santa's Cave

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10AM - 4PM**

**Christmas Eve: 10am - 4pm
Closed Christmas Day**



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School Holidays: 10am - 4pm
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Covid restrictions in place.



WZ10042



Barmera Christmas

BARMERA will be busy like Santa's workshop this year, with activities to do and things to see for Riverlanders of all ages in the lead-up to Christmas.

Christmas Window and Street Display Group co-ordinator, Julie Krollig, and her team of volunteers have taken to Barwell Avenue and Bice Street to bring some festivity to the town.

Mrs Krollig said the team had been "lucky" this year, with help from community members and school students.

"The residents at Bonney Lodge, and school kids from Berri and Barmera, supplied hand-made decorations, which is absolutely fantastic," Mrs Krollig said.

Shop windows showcasing the past 100 years in Barmera will keep to the Christmas theme, with festive decorations added to the displays, plus "Christmas surprises" at Bonney Theatre and in the main street.

Last year children were encouraged to look for candy canes in the window displays, but this year they will be searching for elves.

Christmas decorations will be available to purchase by community members, to have their name in the displays and help fundraise for the decorating group.

Decoration prices will vary between \$5 and \$20.

Visit the Barmera Visitor Information Centre (VIC) for the elf search entry forms, or to purchase decorations.

Mrs Krollig thanked everyone involved in the project, including Berri Barmera Council, Barmera Community Fund, Barmera Men's Shed, and Barmera op shop owners.

"Also, a big thank you to the elves who have been helping to set up the Christmas displays, including Vanessa, Janette, Julie G, Mike and Leigh," Mrs Krollig said.

Santa's Cave

Sunday, December 5 from 11am
Saturday, December 11 & Sunday
December 12, 11am to 3pm
Saturday, December 18 & Sunday
December 19, 11am to 3pm

Relive your childhood Christmas memories with a true dose of magic and whimsy by visiting Barmera Santa's Cave at the Memorial Hall. A team of Christmas lovers have been working hard to present a Christmas wonderland for all to enjoy. Subject to Covid-19 restrictions.



Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 10

This year's pageant had to be modified due to Covid-19 restrictions and volunteer numbers. However, a pop-up event will still go ahead in a similar way to the pageant in 2020. Selected floats will parade through the streets of Barmera in a controlled, spread out event. A firework spectacular at Lake Bonney to cap off the day will still go ahead, and is scheduled for 9.15pm.

Barwell Avenue

Barmera's main street will be brought to life with festivity this December, with shop windows decorated with Christmas curiosities, plus seasonal surprises in the street and at Bonney Theatre. Get down to Barmera to see the festive wonders for yourself.

Elf Search

Local children are invited to search for and count all of the cheeky elves hidden in the shop-front displays. Visit the information centre for your entry form.

Mallee Christmas

LAMEROO

Christmas celebrations

Held at the town oval from 5pm to 9pm on Thursday, December 16.

The night will feature a Christmas parade, a visit from Santa, along with activities for the kids including a jumping castle.

People wanting to enter a float are urged to contact Kieran Caulfield on 0428 763 355 beforehand, however floats will be accepted on the night. Pageant entrants will need to gather at the town pool before 5pm.

A barbecue cooked by the Lamerloo Lions Club will be available, along with tea and coffee from the CWA.

Christmas lights display

The Lamerloo Home Centre is running this year's Christmas lights display competition with prizes up for grabs for the best town display and best rural/farm display.

Registrations close at 5pm on December 17, 2021.

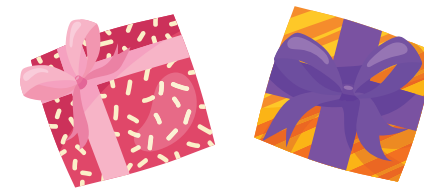
PINNAROO

Pinnaroo's Christmas parade

Friday, December 17

Float entrants are asked to register with Chris Jenzen on Monday, December 13, but floats will still be accepted on the night. Float entrants will gather from 6pm for a 7pm parade.

Santa has all his Covid-19 clearances, Pinnaroo Lions will cook a barbecue, and a jumping castle will be in place.



MURRAYVILLE

Covid-19 rules willing Murrayville will host its traditional community barbecue, carols and a visit from Santa on Christmas Eve in Pioneer Park.

The evening normally kicks off from 5.30pm

KAROONDA

Karoonda Christmas display competition

\$250 prizes from best business, best residential and best farm gate displays.

Send in your best display photo, name, phone number, and address to the District Council of Karoonda East Murray via Facebook or to council@dckem.sa.gov.au by December 10.

Winners announced December 22, 2021.

Karoonda Ecumenical Church Carols

Sunday, December 5

Held at the Big Ram lawns, 7pm for 7.30pm start.

WYNARKA

Wynarka community Christmas lights

8.30pm to 10pm, Thursday to Sundays from December 2 to December 23, and then 8.30pm to midnight from Friday, December 24 to Sunday, December 26 at 24 Railway Terrace Wynarka.

Wynarka community Christmas Tree and community gathering

Sunday, December 19 @ Wynarka Football Club, from 5pm to 11pm.



Make it a December to remember with one of these great gift ideas

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Merry Christmas



Renmark Christmas

IT'S nearly that time of year again... Christmas!

Renmark Paringa Council is celebrating Christmas this year with a month-long calendar of activities and events for the whole family to enjoy.

Events have been spread out over the whole month ensuring there is something fun for the whole family to get involved in and enjoy that festive spirit.

The festival kicks off on Friday, December 3, with late night shopping in the Renmark town centre.

This event will see local businesses opening late on the first Friday of December, which is traditionally Renmark's Christmas celebration night.

The Renmark Paringa Network is

hosting this event, which is being proudly supported by Renmark Paringa Council.

Businesses will have an array of specials and promotions on the night, while live entertainment will create a vibrant atmosphere for locals and visitors when shopping up a storm.

The festival will finish on Christmas Eve with the last of the school holiday activities for December.

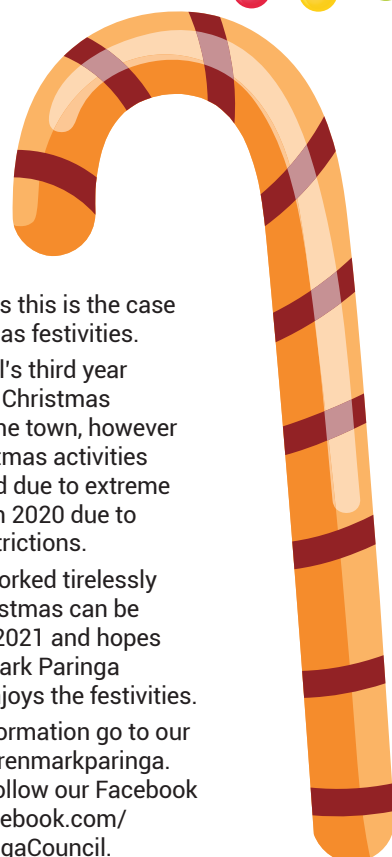
The iconic Renmark Christmas tree will be lit up on Friday, December 3, and council hopes locals and visitors enjoy the new Christmas decorations around town, which include solar-lit Christmas street banners and a three-metre star which will be located at the Taylor Riverfront Precinct.

They say the third time is a charm

and Renmark Paringa Council certainly hopes this is the case for its Christmas festivities.

This is Council's third year of hosting the Christmas activities for the town, however in 2019, Christmas activities were cancelled due to extreme weather and in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Council has worked tirelessly to ensure Christmas can be celebrated in 2021 and hopes that the Renmark Paringa community enjoys the festivities. For further information go to our website www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au or follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/RenmarkParingaCouncil.



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1	2	3 LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING	4 TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC CHRISTMAS MARKET	5 CAROLS IN THE GARDEN
6	7	8	9	10
11 CINEMA IN THE GARDENS	12 CINEMA IN THE GARDENS	13 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM	14 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM	15 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
16 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM	17 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM	18 PETER COMBE CONCERT	19 POOL FAMILY FUN DAY	20 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
21 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM	22 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM	23 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM	24 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM	MORE INFO



Bookings required for most events.

All events are subject to change and are in line with COVID-19 restrictions

renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/christmas

facebook.com/RenmarkParingaCouncil





Berri Christmas

CHRISTMAS spirit will be alive and well in Berri this December, with two major community events set to bring the town to life.

Berri businesses have again come together to organise the annual Santa's Cave, inside the Alfresco's building on Vaughan Terrace.

The event, organised by the Berri Traders group, will run over three Saturdays on December 4, 11 and 18, giving locals plenty of opportunities to partake in the festivities.

Berri Traders group member and event organiser Elyssa Thurmer said the cave would feature a range of activities for children and families to enjoy.

"We will have free face painting, a sausage sizzle and also an ice-cream van," she said.

"Last year's event was very successful, despite having the weather of all the seasons over the three weeks, so we are

excited to be able to hold the cave at the Alfresco's building again.

"The local traders are looking forward to having people coming into the CBD and bringing their Christmas cheer to Berri."

The event is also supported by the Berri Barmera Council, while several community groups will also chip in and volunteer their time to make help make the cave a reality

"The Rotary Club of Berri will be helping us out on the Saturday mornings, some of the Our Town Berri committee will also be there helping, and members of the Zonta Club of the Riverland will be helping Trevor Scott and Robert Gruzlewski from Elders on the barbecue," Ms Thurmer said.

"There is definitely a strong community effort making this event possible."

Ms Thurmer said the event would be Covid-safe and comply with all Covid-19 restrictions.

"We are working closely with council and monitoring to see how the situation develops," she said.

Following the cave's launch, the town's annual Carols by the River will make its return to Riverview Drive along the Berri river front on Sunday, December 5.

This year's carols, put together by the Berri Barmera Christian Churches and supported by council, will feature a number of guest artists, including 2019 The Voice contestant and Zimbabwean cricket player Henry Olonga.

The event will also include a children's puppet show, called The Best Gift Ever, backed by a band and carollers.

Coffee, ice-cream and drinks will be available to purchase, with attendees encouraged to bring along their own picnic, a chair or picnic rug.

Everyone is welcome to take part in this year's carols, which kick off at 6pm for a 7pm start.

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Santa's Cave

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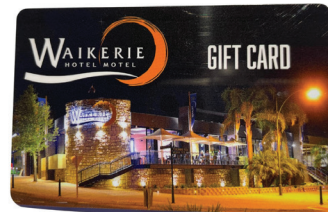


Stocking fillers

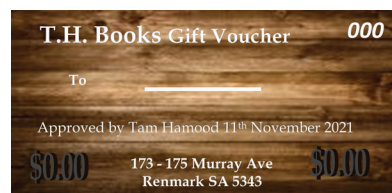


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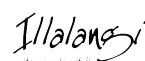
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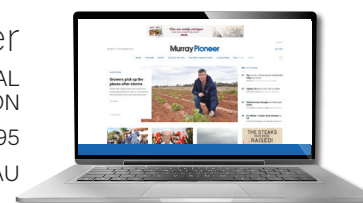
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by Celeste**
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**Eyes for Beauty
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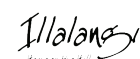


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**RIVERLAND
CHRISTMAS
STORY-WRITING
COMPETITION**

WINNER

Congratulations

Sammi Heward

from Monash Primary and Preschool

THIS is the story of the best Christmas ever! I woke with a startle. What had woken me? I listened hard. Yes, there it was again! Bells! I could hear jingle bells!

As I walked out the door I had mixed emotions. I was anxious but excited, because I couldn't see what it was.

When I walked into the lounge room I could hear munching, then I saw it was a lost rogue reindeer.

'What do I do?' I thought. I don't think it's normal to have a reindeer in your lounge room.

I finally decided that I should find its home. Since it had bells on its collar I knew it belonged to Santa. At that moment when I looked at his collar, I realised his name was Dasher!

I knew I would have to journey across the whole world to find Father Christmas because it is still Christmas Eve!

But, I'm only nine. I don't have a vehicle! Right at that moment Dasher came in and did a big poo!

I didn't know what to do, so I hugged my stuffed unicorn and bam – I started flying!

I realised this was my key to finding Santa!

I started travelling, and before I knew it, I was in America, then Europe, then Asia! And in Asia I found red and green flashing lights.

Dasher flew up next to me, then he leapt up higher and suddenly there was Santa, who laughed, 'Ho, ho, ho!'

So it was a win-win either way. Dasher had reunited with his owner, and I found a flying stuffed unicorn!

Dasher playfully got back on the leash and I flew my amazing unicorn back home.

I can't wait to tell Mum about the amazing adventure I had. That was the best Christmas ever!



RUNNERS-UP

Congratulations

Seth Rosenberg

**from the Riverland
Special School**

Congratulations

Callie Loffler

**from the
Waikerie Lutheran
Primary School**



Seth and Callie's stories are available to read in this week's edition of the **Murray Pioneer** (1/12/2022). Keep an eye out in the Murray Pioneer for the month of December to see if your story gets published. In addition, a selection of entries will be on display for public viewing at the Chaffey Theatre throughout December.



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and use
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HYGIENIC MEATS

Holiday Movies



NO TIME TO DIE (M)
Friday December 3 at 8pm
Saturday December 4 at 2pm & 8pm

VENOM: LET THERE BE CARNAGE (M)
Friday December 10 at 8pm (3d)
Saturday December 11 at 8pm
Sunday December 12 at 2pm
Thursday December 16 at 7pm

RON'S GONE WRONG (PG)
Saturday December 11 at 2pm
Wednesday December 15 at 10am & 2pm
Thursday December 16 at 2pm

PETER COMBE LIVE IN CONCERT
Presented by Renmark Paringa Council
Saturday December 18 at 2pm

DUNE (M)
Friday January 7 at 8pm
Saturday January 8 at 8pm

THE BOSS BABY: FAMILY BUSINESS (PG)
Saturday January 8 at 2pm
Monday January 10 at 2pm
Tuesday January 11 at 2pm
Wednesday January 12 at 10am & 2pm



BOOK ONLINE chaffeytheatre.com.au or 8586 1800
Seating Strictly Limited due to COVID-19

PLEASE WEAR A MASK. Patrons are required to wear a mask when entering the Chaffey Theatre and during performances, as directed by the SA Government. Exemptions apply to for patrons under the age of 12 or for medical reasons.



Christmas reindeer brownies

Ingredients

150g butter
275g (1 ¼ cups) caster sugar
75g (¾ cup) cocoa powder
2 tsp vanilla extract
3 eggs
75g (½ cup) plain flour

Decorations

200g pretzels
250g milk chocolate melted
200g packet Jaffas
130g silver cachous (edible balls)
16 mini candy canes

Method

1. Preheat oven to 160° and line a 20cm square tin with baking paper. Set aside.
2. Place the butter into a microwave-safe bowl. Heat for 1 minute.
3. Add the caster sugar and cocoa powder and stir.
4. Heat in the microwave on 30 second bursts (50% power) until melted and combined - stirring each time.
5. Allow to cool slightly.
6. Add the vanilla extract and the eggs and whisk until combined.
7. Sift the plain flour into the bowl and mix gently.
8. Pour the brownie mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 30 minutes or until just cooked through (do not overcook).
9. Leave in the tin to cool completely.
10. Trim any raised edges off the brownie so you have a completely flat square brownie.
11. Turn the brownie over onto a flat board.
12. Cut the brownie into 16 equal rectangles.
13. Cut the pretzels in half using a sharp knife.
14. Press the pretzels into the top of the brownie pieces for 'antlers'.
15. Spread melted milk chocolate over the front of the brownie pieces (do a couple at a time so that the chocolate doesn't set too quickly).
16. Add a Jaffa for the nose and 2 silver cachous for the eyes.
17. Trim the candy canes with a knife so that you have small straight pieces (approx 6 cm in length). Insert the candy cane into the base of the brownie pieces.

Blueberry and blackberry spritz

Recipe

150g fresh or frozen blackberries
80g blueberries
1 tbsp maple syrup
1 cup crushed ice
600ml chilled raspberry-flavoured sparkling mineral water or sparkling mineral water
Thyme sprigs, to serve



Method

Place the blackberries, blueberries and maple syrup in a blender and blend until smooth.

Pour the blackberry mixture into serving glasses. Top with ice, mineral water and thyme sprigs to serve.

12 days of Christmas SALE



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www.chubbycheeksboutique.com.au

Check out our Instagram page for the daily specials:
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Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 5pm
Saturday 9am - 12.30pm | Sunday 10am - 12pm





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