

DEC 2022

Riverland Christmas

GIFT GUIDE



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DEC 2022
Riverland
Christmas
GIFT GUIDE

Welcome to the **2022** Riverland Christmas Gift Guide.

WITH Christmas creeping upon us, communities across the Riverland and Mallee have been working hard to plan events for the whole family to enjoy this festive season.

The 2022 Riverland Christmas Gift Guide showcases our region's many wonderful town events, plus we've included a guide to gifts for the whole family including mum, dad and the kids, all from local businesses.

The Christmas season will shine bright, with events in Renmark, Berri, Barmera, Loxton, Waikerie, Morgan, and across the Mallee.

The Riverland has many amazing choices for some Christmas retail therapy, so grab your friends or family members and make a day of it by shopping lo-ho-ho-ho-cal

and giving the gift of the region's finest.

The winner and runners-up of The Murray Pioneer's Christmas poem-writing competition are announced in this guide, with the winning poem published. Keep an eye out in the paper this month to read more poems from children across the region.

We have also included a mocktail recipe perfect for our Australian summer Christmas and an easy recipe for a stunning centrepiece-worthy lamington dessert.

We wish all of our amazing readers and local businesses a very merry, and safe, Christmas.

- The Taylor Group Media team



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Renmark Christmas

THE Christmas spirit has returned to Renmark for 2022 in a modified way, as the local council celebrates the holiday season while also protecting the town from flood risks.

Renmark Paringa Council's scaled-back Renmark's Christmas On the Murray Festival 2022 began Sunday, December 2, with the Carols in the Garden event at the Jarrett Memorial Gardens.

A Renmark Paringa Council spokesperson said the minimised program aimed to create a "festive feel in the town", while also ensuring the community was protected. "The timing of the

council-facilitated festive events, together with the unprecedented demands placed on council's resources with the ongoing rising river levels and forecasted River Murray flood peak means that we are unable to commit to delivering the whole program of planned events for 2022," the spokesperson said.

"Although the Festival program will not run as originally planned, we are pleased that some events will continue and that Christmas will still shine bright throughout the town.

The Adelaide Big Band Christmas Bash, to be performed at the Chaffey

Theatre on Saturday, December 10 highlights the remainder of council's scaled-back festival program.

A pancake breakfast raising funds for the planned Royal Flying Doctor Service patient transfer facility will be held Saturday, December 17 in the Jarrett Memorial Gardens, with Christmas Fun at the Library also taking place on the same day, involving an interactive show by Cool 4 Kids, Santa's Cave, and face painting.

The Belgravia Family Fun Day at the pool will be held at the Renmark Swimming Centre on Sunday, December 18, before council's school holiday

program begins on Monday, December 19 and runs to Friday, December 23.

The town's large Christmas tree, and giant festive star decoration, will also be lit up for the festival.

"While it is unfortunate that these changes are necessary, council's highest priority is and must be the protection of our community," the spokesperson said.

The revised Renmark's Christmas On the Murray Festival 2022 program can be found by visiting the council website (www.discoverrenmark.com.au/murray-christmas).

Big Band Christmas Bash

Saturday, December 10

All the favourite Christmas songs featuring crooner Bill Parton with the 18-piece Adelaide Big Band at the Chaffey Theatre from 1pm. Bookings essential, phone 8586 1800.

Rotary Breakfast in the Gardens

Saturday, December 17

Pancake breakfast in the Jarrett Memorial Gardens in support of the Royal Flying Doctors Service.

Christmas Fun at the Library

Saturday, December 17

A morning of fun at Renmark Library for kids of all ages with an interactive music show, Santa's Cave and face painting.

Belgravia Family Fun Day

Sunday, December 18

Fun galore at the Renmark Swimming Centre with inflatables, music and much more.

School Holiday Program

Monday, December 19 to Friday, December 23

A variety of free council and community activities including Christmas craft at Renmark Library, a free movie screening at the Chaffey Theatre and activities at Riverland Youth Theatre.



Holiday Movies



BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER (M)
THURSDAY DECEMBER 8 AT 7PM
SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 AT 8PM

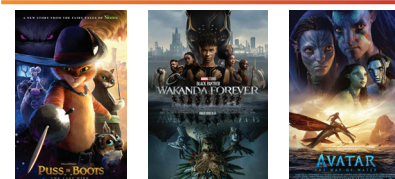
BIG BAND CHRISTMAS BASH!
Presented by Renmark Paringa Council
SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 AT 1PM

DC LEAGUE OF SUPER-PETS (PG)
Free Screening Presented by Renmark Paringa Council
MONDAY DECEMBER 19 AT 2PM
Duration: 1hr 45min

STRANGE WORLD (PG)
FRIDAY JANUARY 6 AT 2PM
SATURDAY JANUARY 7 AT 2PM

PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH (CTC)
FRIDAY JANUARY 6 AT 7PM
SATURDAY JANUARY 7 AT 7PM
SUNDAY JANUARY 8 AT 2PM
MONDAY JANUARY 9 AT 10AM & 2PM
TUESDAY JANUARY 10 AT 10AM & 2PM
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11 AT 10AM & 2PM
THURSDAY JANUARY 12 AT 10AM *Sensory
THURSDAY JANUARY 12 AT 2PM
FRIDAY JANUARY 13 AT 2PM
SATURDAY JANUARY 14 AT 2PM

AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER (CTC)
THURSDAY JANUARY 12 AT 7PM 3D
FRIDAY JANUARY 13 AT 7PM 3D
SATURDAY JANUARY 14 AT 7PM
SUNDAY JANUARY 15 AT 1PM
SUNDAY JANUARY 15 AT 6PM 3D
Warning: Contains several sequences of bright lights which may affect customers who are susceptible to photosensitive epilepsy or other photo sensitivities.



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Loxton Christmas

AS the home of Christmas in the Riverland, Loxton is in full swing for the festive season, with the Loxton Lights Festival back for another magical year.

The month-long festival will feature new activities, as well as old favourites, including festive silent discos, brilliant lights displays and extended trading hours for the month

of December to make sure all your Christmas shopping needs are fulfilled.

The Loxton Lights Festival which runs from November 26 until December 31, with Loxton Christmas staples Christmas Wonderland, Santa's Walk and Bike the Night, is sure to delight locals and visitors alike.

Venture down East Terrace any night throughout the festival to witness the street's trees lit up with a magical light show, or even just take a walk around town to see how Loxton embraces the festive season.

Santa's Walk features dozens of homes delightfully decorated, with Hilbig street well worth the visit throughout

December.

Family favourite Christmas Wonderland has relocated to the Loxton North Sports Club, with the illuminated display a highlight throughout the festival.

Make sure to spend a bit of time in Loxton this Christmas to truly get into the festive spirit.

Christmas Wonderland

November 26 to December 31

A beloved Loxton icon has moved to a new home for 2022 and beyond, with Christmas Wonderland now lighting up the Loxton North Sporting Club. The must-see display is filled with Christmas lights and images, features not only classic Christmas characters such as Mr and Mrs Claus, but also popular characters dressed in their festive best. Best viewing times are 8.30pm to 11.30pm each night. Entry is free, but donations are welcome.

Santa's Walk

November 26 to Saturday, December 31

Homes and streets of Loxton will experience the magic of Christmas lights, as locals get into the festive spirit and light up their homes. Hilbig street will be embracing the magic of Christmas lights from November 26 until Saturday, December 31. Best viewing times will be between 8.30pm and 11pm each night.

Community Carols

Sunday, December 11

Community Carols is the perfect family get together with the combined churches of Loxton inviting the community to come and sing along to carol favourites. Festivities will kick off from 7pm, with carols beginning at 7.30pm, on Loxton Oval, Bookpurnong Terrace. Bring your own chairs and rugs. Event will be cancelled if there is inclement weather.

Silent Discos

Friday, December 9 and Friday, December 16

A new event this year, the silent discos are a quirky way to get out and experience Loxton during the festive season. Get the whole family together for 20 minutes of singing and dancing to Christmas classics like no one is listening! Friday, December 9, from 7.30pm for a tour of East Terrace, and Friday, December 16, from 8.30pm for a tour of Christmas Wonderland.

Bike the Night

Sunday, December 18

A unique way to see the lights of Loxton is by wheels, with Bike the Night back again this year. Decorate your bike, scooter, wheelchair, or gopher with free glow sticks, before exploring the streets in and around Santa's Walk. Bike the Night will be held from 8pm at the Loxton Community Conservation and Heritage Park, Bookpurnong Terrace median strip at the Sixth Street crossover.

Loxton Light Show

Saturday, November 26 to Saturday, December 31

The main street of Loxton will be lit up every night throughout the Loxton Lights Festival, with large spotlights illuminating the trees along East Terrace to create a spectacular display of colour and movement. Best viewing times will be between 8.30pm and 11pm.

Christmas Nostalgia

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

The Loxton Newsagency is home to a private collection which relives special Christmas traditions. The permanent display is a treasured and historic display of all things Christmas, from novel trees to unique decorations and toys.

Christmas Tree Festival

November 26 to Sunday, December 18

The Christmas Tree Festival has been a staple of the Loxton Lights Festival for more than 25 years, with a display of trees decorated by local community groups and schools. Viewing at CWA Hall, Kokoda Terrace daily from 11am to 4pm. This year's theme is 'A favourite storybook', with many unique and creative entries sure to be shared. Gold coin entry.

Santa's Workshop

Sunday December 4, 11 and 18

Children can experience the magic of Father Christmas by visiting him in his magical workshop at Riverland Motor Group, 1 East Terrace, from 10am to 2pm. They will also receive a free gift.



Christmas Tree Trail

Until January 15

Waikerie's Christmas Tree Trail features more than 100 3D wooden trees lit up by solar lights and decorated by local businesses, community organisations and schools.

Dusk is the perfect time to wander amongst this field of Christmas trees at Federation Park behind the Rain Moth Gallery.

The magical trees will delight children and their families and have become a popular tourist attraction.

Santa's Cave

November 25 to December 24

New scenes have been added to Santa's Cave this year at the Waikerie Institute. The gift shop is back featuring handmade items and products including signs, Christmas decorations and jams. Visit Santa from 3pm to 4pm on school days and 10am to 4pm on all other days. Entry is a gold coin donation.

Rotary Christmas Market

Friday, December 18

The Rotary Club of Waikerie's Christmas Market at the Civic Centre lawns will have a range of stalls ideal for purchasing gifts from. Santa will make a special visit for the children. The event will feature food and drinks vans, and the Waikerie Army Cadets will cook the barbecue. Running from 9am to 2pm.

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, December 11

Celebrate the start of the festive season at Waikerie's Carols by Candlelight at the Waikerie Primary School oval. The event will feature children's activities and a sausage sizzle from 6pm. Carol singing will start from 7pm. Smart light candles will be available for purchase and free ice blocks will be on offer. BYO chairs and rugs.

Waikerie Christmas



WAIKERIE is the perfect destination to celebrate Christmas.

The community comes together each year to decorate the town for the festive season and celebrate the occasion with a number of annual events.

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

Waikerie Christmas Decorations committee spokesperson Donna Matthews said more than 100 3D wooden Christmas trees have been decorated by local businesses, community organisations and schools.

She said signs have been placed around the town and Sturt Highway inviting tourists to visit the CBD and have a look at the Christmas trees.

"We have a lot of tourists that say 'this is amazing, I can't believe your community does this every year'," she said.

The town's Santa's Cave has a fresh new look this year.

Waikerie Santa's Cave organising committee president Amy Stephens said money raised through the gold coin donation entry fees and community donations enabled new decorations to be purchased.

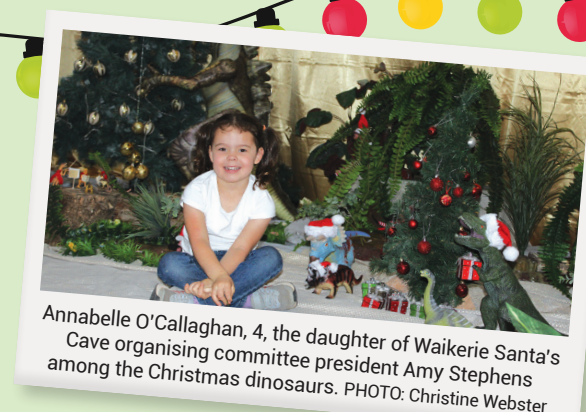
These include a dinosaur Christmas scene and a new gingerbread house.

The iconic Christmas display has been running since 1996.

Ms Stephens said the event is being promoted online through SA Tourism and an Instagram page has also been set up to increase awareness about the already popular tourist attraction.

People can also join in with the festive spirit of the season by taking part in Carols by Candlelight at the Waikerie Primary School oval on December 11.

A variety of stalls with Christmas gift options will be available from the Rotary Christmas Market on Sunday, December 18 from 9am to 2pm.



Annabelle O'Callaghan, 4, the daughter of Waikerie Santa's Cave organising committee president Amy Stephens among the Christmas dinosaurs. PHOTO: Christine Webster



Waikerie's Christmas Tree Trail is a magical sight from dusk. PHOTO: supplied

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HYGIENIC MEATS

Berri Christmas

THREE free events in the Berri CBD next month will help locals get into the Christmas spirit throughout December.

The town's annual Santa's Cave will run out of the main street pavilion on Vaughan Terrace for two more Saturday mornings from 9am to 12 noon, having started last Saturday, December 3.

Children will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa, with each child receiving a free gift.

Visitors to Santa's Cave are asked to bring a camera or phone to take a photo with Santa.

The town's showcase Christmas event, the Berri Christmas Market, will follow on December 10, from 9am to 3pm, at the Berri Town Hall at 19 Wilson Street.

Locals and visitors are invited to enjoy a day out shopping in Berri in the lead up to Christmas, with the Berri Town Hall set to come to life with a boutique-gift-style Christmas market showcasing local Riverland craft, giftware and produce.

Stallholders will have homewares, jewellery, clothing, candles, children's

items, local produce, home-baked goods and sweet treats, garden and outdoor ornaments, terrariums, succulents, novelty items and delicious local food.

The Christmas colouring competition, undertaken by the district's schools, will be on display with the winners to be announced on the market day.

Various local school choirs will also be performing.

Santa's Cave will also be open for families to visit, while Berri's shopping precinct will be open for business and raring to go, all within walking distance of the hall.

The Berri Church of Christ will be holding a Mega Christmas Market on the same day at their premises at 1025 Old Sturt Highway.

The Mega Christmas Market will feature produce and crafts, opening from 8am to 12 noon.

With so much to see and do, the Riverland community and visitors have every excuse to come and have a great Christmas in Berri.

Barmera Christmas

CHRISTMAS is back to its former glory in Barmera this year, with things for community members of all ages to look forward to over the next few weeks.

The Barmera Christmas Planning Committee will see its Christmas pageant back to pre-Covid strength on Friday, December 9, with the festivities starting from 5.30pm and the float parade scheduled for 6.15pm. This year's theme is Christmas Around the World, with cash prizes for the best four floats.

A farm barn petting zoo will be set up and a vintage car parade will take place, while Mr Oopy, Rosie Clark Princesses and a school choir will provide extra entertainment. The firework spectacular will start from 9.15pm.

Barmera Central co-ordinator and Planning Committee member Kelsey Hogan said everyone was looking forward to the pageant this year after last year's was scaled back due to Covid-19.

"We are expecting a big crowd this year since we haven't had a proper one for a

couple of years," she said.

Santa's Cave in Bonney Theatre is open and ready to welcome children and the young at heart to visit the jolly man himself every Saturday and Sunday in December from 10am to 2pm, and the final open day on Thursday, December 22 from 3pm to 7pm to get the last-minute Christmas wishes in to the man in red.

Activities including letter writing, Christmas story time and colouring-in, and much more, will keep smiles on faces after meeting Santa.

Plus, as always, the elves from the Christmas Window and Street Display Group have been busy getting the shop windows, Bonney Theatre and parts of the street on Barwell Avenue dressed up for Christmas.



BERRI

Berri Santa's Cave

Saturday, December 3, 10 and 11

Santa will be visiting Berri every Saturday before Christmas from 9am to 12 noon. All those children who come to visit will be given a free gift. Held at the main street pavilion on Vaughan Terrace.

Berri Christmas Market

Saturday, December 10

Enjoy a day out shopping local in Berri in the lead up to Christmas when the Berri Town Hall comes to life with a boutique gift style Christmas market showcasing local Riverland craft, giftware and produce. Running from 9am to 3pm.

Mega Christmas Market

Saturday, December 10

Produce and craft stalls at the Berri Church of Christ, 1025 Old Sturt Highway. Open from 8am to 12 noon.

BARMERA

Santa's Cave

Saturday, December 10 to Thursday, December 22

Visit Santa's Cave in Bonney Theatre on Saturdays and Sundays this month from 10am to 2pm and on Thursday, December 22 from 3pm to 7pm. Activities available for visiting children and families include writing letters to Santa, Christmas story time, and colouring-in.

Christmas Pageant and Fireworks

Friday, December 9

There will be plenty to see and do when the Barmera pageant returns to the Barwell Avenue this year from 5.30pm. A petting zoo, vintage car parade, Mr Oopy, Rosie Clark Princesses, sideshows, amusements, food and more will all be on offer. Fireworks to cap off the day will begin from 9.15pm.

Barwell Avenue Decorations

The main street will be brought to life with festivity this month with shop windows decorated with Christmas curiosities and Bonney Theatre dressed up for the occasion.

Mallee Christmas

The Mallee festive spirit will be well and truly alive this month with several Christmas events held across the region.

LAMEROO

Lameroo Christmas Street Parade

Friday, December 16

Event held at the town's sporting club complex with plenty of family fun to be had. Assembly around the swimming pool area from 5.45pm, with the parade commencing at 6.30pm. Hosted by the Lameroo Lions Club.

PINNAROO

Pinnaroo Christmas Parade and Late Night Shopping

Friday, December 16

Starting at 6pm and running until 9pm, with late night shopping in the town.

MURRAYVILLE

Murrayville Christmas lights competition parade

Deck your house in lights by December 18 ready for judging. Prizes will be awarded for the best Christmas lights in Murrayville.

Christmas Eve in the Park

Saturday, December 24

Murrayville Christmas Carols in Pioneer Park from 5pm to 10pm. A family friendly event to bring the community together in celebration. Be entertained with Christmas carols and a visit from Santa, plus barbecue dinner will be available. Bring a picnic blanket and some Christmas cheer to enjoy a night out this festive season.

KAROONDA

Scarecrow Christmas Competition

District Council of Karoonda East Murray's Christmas-themed scarecrow competition will be judged this week with the scarecrows on display on the Railway Terrace Lawns. Two cash prizes are up for grabs for the People's Choice vote – undertaken by the community – and for the elected members pick.

Karoonda Christmas Carols

Sunday, December 18

Held at the Karoonda Institute building in Peake Street from 7pm.

WYNARKA

Wynarka Christmas Tree and Community Gathering

Saturday, December 17

Held at Wynarka Football Club from 5pm to 11pm. Bring a picnic to share with your family and BYO drinks.

Wynarka Community Lights

Friday, December 9 to Sunday, December 25

Novelty display with all-ages lucky dips for \$5 at 24 Railway Terrace. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, plus Thursday, December 22, until December 23 on from 8.30pm to 10pm. Christmas Eve and Christmas night 8.30pm to midnight.



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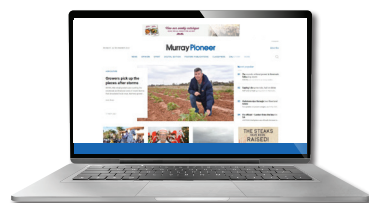


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Watermelon Nojitos

Recipe

115g caster sugar
1.5kg watermelon, peeled and chopped
2 limes, sliced
2 tsp finely grated lime rind
500ml chilled soda water
90ml lime juice
1 small bunch fresh mint, sprigs picked
1 tbsp caster sugar, plus extra
Ice cubes, to serve



Method

- Place sugar and 1 cup water in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until sugar dissolves. Increase heat to high. Bring to the boil. Boil, without stirring, for 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Set aside to cool completely.
- Place watermelon in a blender and blend until smooth.
- Grate lime rind before slicing. Place lime slices in a large jug. Using the end of a rolling pin, slightly crush lime to release juice. Add watermelon, soda water, lime juice and cooled sugar syrup. Stir to combine. Add mint.
- Combine extra sugar and lime rind on a small plate. Place 1/4 cup water in a separate bowl. Dip the rim of serving glasses into water, then in sugar mixture. Divide ice among glasses. Add watermelon mixture. Serve immediately.

Lamington Strawberry Wreath

Ingredients

500g strawberries (frozen or fresh)
150g caster sugar
1 tsp vanilla bean paste
500ml thickened cream
26 lamington fingers
Extra 500g fresh strawberries
(for decoration)



Method

- Place 500g strawberries and 115g caster sugar in a large saucepan over medium heat. Cook, crushing strawberries with a wooden spoon for 10 minutes or until sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 10 minutes or until mixture is syrupy.
- Remove mixture from heat and strain through a fine sieve into a jug. Discard solids. Wash, dry and return syrup to the saucepan. Stir in vanilla bean paste. Bring to a simmer over medium heat and simmer for 12 minutes or until slightly thickened. Remove from heat and set aside to cool completely.
- Using an electric mixer, beat cream and remaining sugar until just-firm peaks form. Add 1/3 cup of strawberry syrup to cream. Fold through gently to create a rippled effect.
- Carefully spoon cream mixture into a large snap-lock bag (or piping bag) and snip 2cm off one corner. Pipe a 23cm ring of cream on a flat serving plate to form the base. This ring will secure the lamingtons to the plate.
- Pipe cream mixture onto one face of a lamington. Place lamington on its side on cream ring to start assembling the wreath. Pipe cream onto another lamington and sandwich together with first lamington. Repeat process to form the wreath.
- Reserve 12 fresh strawberries. Hull and finely dice remaining strawberries. Cut three of the reserved strawberries in half. Top wreath with strawberry decorations and spoon over remaining syrup mixture. Serve immediately.

WINNER

Congratulations

Eden Piltz

from Moorook Primary School

Ho Ho Ho, here comes Santa, but he's not in his sleigh,
He's in his dinghy and it's the middle of the day?

Well the Murray is flooded and it's hard to get through.
It's not safe in the dinghy at night mate. Well that's true!

But don't worry said Santa, it's not my first rodeo,
I will get the presents to the kids, despite the high flow.

I've had practice in '31, '56 and '72,
It's all good mate, don't worry, I will deliver in 2022!

RUNNERS-UP

Congratulations

Cordelia Bland

from the Berri Primary School

Congratulations

Callie Loffler, Lyra Lawson (equal)

from the Waikerie Lutheran Primary School

Cordelia, Callie and Lyra's poems are available to read
in this week's edition of *The Murray Pioneer* (7/12/2022).
In addition, all entries will be on display for public viewing
at the TH Books, Renmark, throughout December.



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