

CHRISTMAS DOWN-UNDER— 1

Read the information.

Christmas in Australia is during the hot summer months. Most children have just started their long summer holidays from school, which last at least six weeks! Christmas Day is a special time for families to be together. Many parents try to have holidays at the same time as their children.

Christmas cakes and puddings are cooked ready for the big family celebration on Christmas Day, which involves opening presents and enjoying a very large meal. This varies from the traditional roast turkey, ham and chicken with baked vegetables, to cold meats, seafood and salads. Christmas Day celebrations may take place in a backyard, at the beach or on a picnic in the park, because the weather is usually hot and sunny.

Cards have been sent to friends and relatives and children have written their letters to Santa.

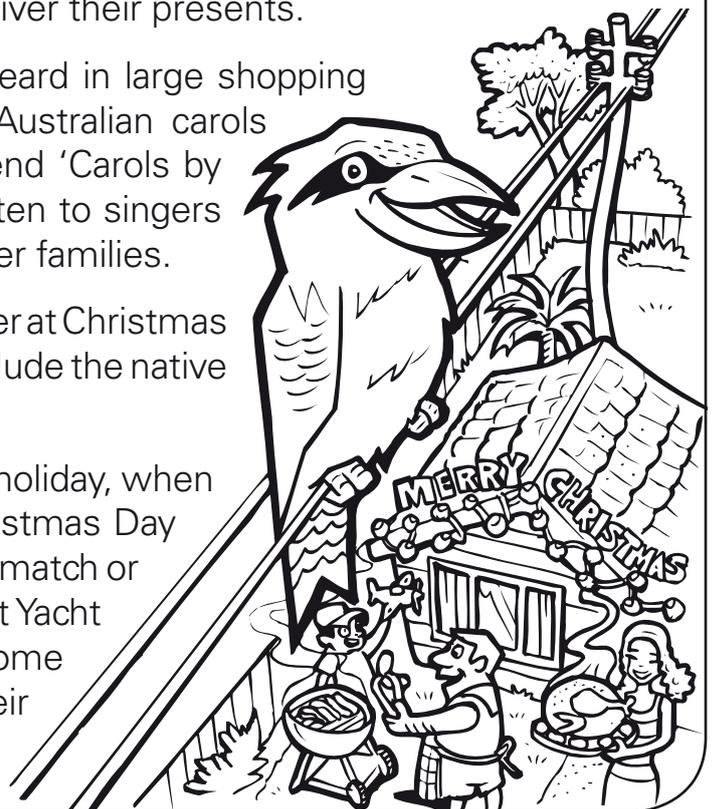
Most families start to put up their decorations in early December. These decorations include wreaths for the door, Christmas lights around the house, artificial Christmas trees with lights, tinsel, bells, nativity scenes and, of course, Santa and his reindeer. Some children hang stockings on their bed or near or under the tree. Many families still put up a 'real' Christmas tree with lights just before Christmas Day.

Some families attend church services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Many children like to leave out food and drink for Santa and his reindeer on Christmas Eve when he comes to deliver their presents.

Traditional Christmas carols can be heard in large shopping centres and sung in churches, but Australian carols are heard as well. Many families attend 'Carols by Candlelight' in their community to listen to singers and choirs and to sing carols with other families.

A lot of Australian plants and trees flower at Christmas and are used as decorations. These include the native Christmas bush and Christmas bell.

Boxing Day (26 December) is a public holiday, when many people eat 'leftovers' from Christmas Day or just relax and watch the Test Cricket match or the beginning of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. Other families, who stayed at home for Christmas Day, leave to start their summer holidays on Boxing Day!

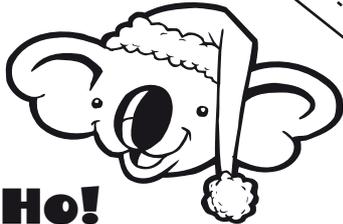


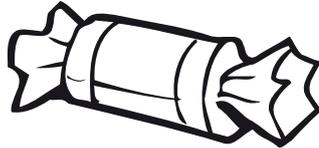
AUSSIE CHRISSIE TAGS

To: _____ From: _____	MERRY CHRISSIE! 
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To: _____ From: _____	 HAPPY CHRISSIE!
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To: _____ From: _____	BONZER CHRISSIE! 
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To: _____ From: _____	 Ho! Ho! Ho!
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To: _____ From: _____	HAVE A BEAUT CHRISSE! 
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AUSSIE SANTA



Read and colour.

1. Colour Santa's Akubra® brown.
2. Colour the corks and hatband green and gold.
3. Colour his singlet red and his Stubbies® dark blue.
4. Colour his sandals green and gold.
5. Colour his swag of Chrissie prezzies red, green and gold.