

THE BUNGONIA TIMES

The Community Grape Vine

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*We wish
all our readers
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*



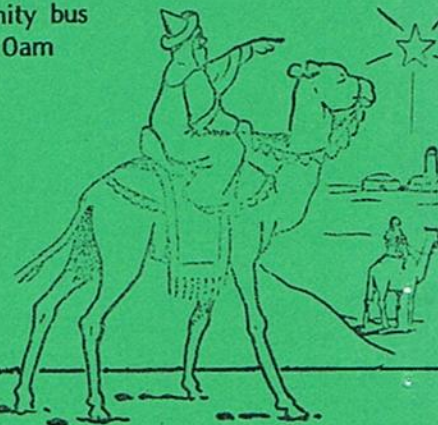
DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

November 29 Market Day,
9am Fire Shed Working Bee

December 1 Landcare AGM
3 Playgroup, Community bus
6 W'ma Small Farms Field Day
8 Progress meeting 7.30
10 Playgroup
11 CWA 10am
12 Fire Brigade meeting 7.30pm
13 Village Christmas Party, under 15's dance
17 Playgroup, community bus
20 Christchurch carols service 6pm
24 Christmas mass Marulan 8pm
31 community bus

January 1 New Tip Charges
14 community bus
21 6pm deadline February "Times"
28 community bus

February 12 CWA 10am



Some more items from the copy of the "Sydney Morning Herald" of December 12, 1946

Advertisements for Christmas included "adorable party frocks" for little girls, in hailstone muslin, English lawn, rayon or cotton. One such dress cost 25/11 (about \$2.50) and 3 coupons. A gift for the grown-ups was a miniature "fruit machine" (poker machine) at the cost of 19/11 (about \$2). There were coloured counters to play with, and a card to tell you how to score.

Ladies' dresses at McDowells' store cost 50/- (\$5) and pairs of stockings were 2/11 (about 30c.) A gold and opal pendant at Saunders' jewellers cost 10 guineas (\$21).

McIlrath's grocers offered mixed nuts for 2/6 per lb (25c), jars of cashews for 12/6 (\$1.25), and 3lb Christmas cakes for 5/11 (60c).

Do many of our readers remember these desserts McIlrath's advertise... "flummery", "blanc mange", "spanish cream"? O.P.rum was 17/2 (\$1.72) a bottle, but we are not told the size of the bottle.

Lastly, to excite you close to Christmas, Goodlands grocery stores advertised a Christmas hamper for the cost of 30/- (\$3). The hamper contained a 2lb tin of Mayfair Ham, a 1 lb tin of Plum Pudding, a bottle of Mynor Orange Cordial, a 2 lb Christmas Cake, a large tin of peaches, and a tin of Morton's Herrings in Tomato Sauce as well as "10 other equally good lines".

Nobody knows at what time of year Jesus was born. Christians who lived a few hundred years after Jesus chose December 25 to remember his birthday, because this was already a special day. Long ago, it was the shortest day of the year, and on this day the sun was worshipped. Christians said that God had made the sun, and so turned to old pagan festival into a day of worship to the Son of God.

Many of the Christmas traditions are very, very old, such as decorating our homes with evergreens, and the giving of gifts. The sending of Christmas cards is a tradition less than a hundred years old.

One of the earlier rites celebrated at Christmas was the Norse Yule sunworship festival. Yule logs and Yule candles became a traditional part of Christmas, symbolising fire and light; so did the northern European custom of the candlelit Christmas tree, which was believed to house the woodland spirits when other trees lost their leaves.

The earliest book of Christmas carols was published in 1521.

The Old English word "wassail" was a greeting meaning "be of good cheer" and at Christmas people toasted each other from a "wassail cup".

(From Reader's Digest "Folklore Myths and Legends of Britain")

