



Mayor's Message

Mayor Paddi Creevey

Enjoy a Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year

Christmas is a special time of year. It's a time where festivities around Christmas and New Year can become quite frenetic as many of us spend time buying presents for family and friends, plan holidays away from home or Christmas get together at home, and shop for food that we usually only savour at this time of year. The festive season also heralds a time for many people to express their spirituality by participating in Christmas carols and pageants like the City's Community Christmas Carnival and Pageant held last week on the Eastern Foreshore.

I was extremely proud to participate in this carnival and witness the 34 wonderful floats entered in the RAC Community Christmas Pageant. The carnival atmosphere was fantastic, full of colour and spectacle, with thousands of people enjoying the choirs, angels on stilts, the Bethlehem village, face painting, circus acts, and being very patient in the longest queues for Santa. As the sun set over Mandjar Bay, and not long before the fireworks spectacular, I started to think about how lucky we are to live here and how fortunate that many of us can come out on a balmy evening and enjoy a real sense of place. The festive spirit of Christmas seemed to be so alive.

It's reassuring to know that the caring spirit of Christmas is demonstrated by people in Mandurah's community who rally each year to bring cheer to others. These include the staff and volunteers of 30 combined government, non-government and charity agencies in Mandurah who distribute Christmas hampers, the bikers on the recent Charity Bike Ride who annually collect toys for disadvantaged children, and the organisers of the free Christmas Picnic in the Park being held at Hall Park on Christmas Eve from 4pm-7pm.

Let's extend a helping hand to those not fortunate enough to have their loved ones with them at this time of year, or whose circumstances are such they are unable to participate in the usual festivities. Mandurah's churches each year provide a Christmas meal for those who are on their own, so please think of these people in our own community and contribute what you can to help. Let's also think of those in the Eastern States who have been besieged by the most devastating fires over the past two weeks. The Red Cross has set up a Bushfire Appeal, please contribute to this or the charity's Christmas Appeal 2006.

My personal Christmas wish is that the police, ambulance, fire and emergency services personnel, and Mandurah SES and Water Rescue volunteers will have a quiet time this festive season as people head off to their holiday destinations or are celebrating at parties and community events at home. On behalf of the City of Mandurah Councillors and Staff, I wish everyone in our community peace and joy for Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Please stay safe during this special time of year.