



DEEPWATER

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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E:eventsdeepwater@gmail.com

Edition number 413

December 2025

We acknowledge the elders (past, present and future) of the Ngoorabul people.

Christmas around the world

Christmas fills homes worldwide with twinkling lights, festive music, and cherished traditions passed down through generations. Beyond the familiar sights of decorated trees and stockings hung by fireplaces, people across different cultures celebrate this magical season in fascinating and meaningful ways that showcase their unique heritage and values.

Germany

German parents secretly hang a glass pickle ornament deep within their Christmas tree branches. On Christmas morning, the first child to spot the pickle receives an extra gift and good fortune for the coming year. This quirky tradition dates back to the 1800s and adds an element of fun to Christmas morning. Many German families gather around the tree, creating an exciting treasure hunt atmosphere as children search for the elusive pickle ornament.

Philippines

The city of San Fernando transforms into the Christmas Capital of the Philippines with its spectacular Giant Lantern Festival. Local artisans craft massive lanterns measuring up to 20 feet in diameter using thousands of spinning lights. These intricate lanterns illuminate the night sky throughout December, drawing visitors from across the country. The tradition showcases Filipino craftsmanship and brings communities together through friendly competition.

Japan

Thanks to a successful marketing campaign in 1974, eating Kentucky Fried Chicken has become a beloved Christmas tradition in Japan. Families order their special Christmas dinner packages months in advance to avoid the long lines. The meal typically includes chicken, cake, and wine, served in festive packaging. Japanese KFC stores even dress their Colonel Sanders statues in Santa suits during the holiday season.

Netherlands

Dutch children eagerly await the arrival of Sinterklaas, December 5th who travels by steamboat from Spain in mid-November. Wearing traditional bishop's robes, he rides a white horse through towns, accompanied by helpers called Black Peters (Zwarte Pieten). Children leave their shoes by the fireplace filled with carrots and hay for Sinterklaas's horse. The next morning, they find small gifts and treats in their shoes

Australia

In Australia, we celebrate Christmas during the summer season with barbecues on the beach. Families pack picnic baskets with seafood, cold meats, and pavlova desserts. Many people spend the afternoon swimming, playing cricket, and enjoying the sunshine. Beach celebrations often include visits from Santa Claus wearing board shorts.

Italy

Italian children await gifts from La Befana, a friendly witch who delivers presents on January 5th. According to legend, she declined to join the Three Kings but now travels the world giving gifts to children. Families leave wine and food for La Befana on Epiphany Eve. Children wake to find their stockings filled with candy or coal.

What is the True Meaning of Christmas?

Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Typical Dutch Christmas dinner 1967 .

Photo by Willem Van der Heul

Christmas is the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth—the incarnation of God with us. Beyond gifts and traditions, its core meaning is worshiping the Savior who came to bring hope, peace, and salvation, remembered through Scripture, historic practices, and acts of love toward others.

The meaning of Christmas can vary for different people and cultures, but it is generally celebrated as a Christian holiday that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. For Christians, Christmas is a time to reflect on the significance of Jesus' birth, emphasizing themes of love, peace, and goodwill toward all.

Beyond its religious roots, Christmas has evolved into a widely celebrated cultural and festive occasion in many parts of the world. It often involves exchanging gifts, spending time with family and friends, decorating homes with festive ornaments, and partaking in special meals and traditions.

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It's also a celebration. It's when Christians celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible tells of his birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies.

Compiled and resourced from various sources by Willem Van der Heul.



FOODWORKS

DEEPWATER

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Christmas Store Hours

Wednesday 24 December **Christmas Eve** 7 am – 6:30 pm

Thursday 25 December **Christmas** CLOSED

Friday 26 December **Boxing Day** 9 am – 1 pm

Saturday 27 December 7 am - 4 pm

Sunday 28 December 9 a, - 1 pm

Monday 29 December 7 am – 6:30 pm

Tuesday 30 December 7 am - 6:30 pm

Wednesday 31 December **New Years Eve** 7 am - 6:30 pm

Thursday 1 January **New Years Day** 9 am – 1 pm

Friday 2 January 7 am – 6:30 pm

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*From the members of
the Deepwater
Progress Association.*

*Wishing our readers
a safe and wonderful
Christmas and a great
new year.*



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The next edition of the Newsletter will be the February 2026

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Deepwater Progress Association Committee Members

President: Willem Van der Heul

Vice President: Charles Kilby

Dirt Trap comes home to Deepwater

Local author and journalist Michael Burge will be making a stop on a national book tour in his home town on December 6, in a conversation with local writers titled Dark Deeds in the Highlands, taking place at The Makers Shed.

This is a chance to snap up a signed copy of his new book *Dirt Trap*, sequel to his acclaimed debut novel *Tank Water*, released by Adelaide's MidnightSun Publishing.

"Since Richard and I moved our gallery to Deepwater, we've expanded the little bookshop inside The Makers Shed, and our publishing operations," Michael told the Progress Association Newsletter.

"I'm very pleased to be able to present my newest work with that of other local writers, like Deepwater's Chris McIntosh and D'Arcy Lloyd of Inverell. They both wrote a wonderful range of mystery, horror and 'noir-ish' short stories that High Country Books published in *Diving Into Deep Water*."

According to Michael, *Dirt Trap* was inspired by a *Tank Water* reader's question, about how the fictitious Brandt family of his first novel would have coped with the NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes, a world-first judicial look into one of the state's darkest eras that he reported on for Guardian Australia from 2022 to 2024.

"It was such a great question, and I went to answer immediately," he said, "but then I realised there was a whole novel in the answer!"

Michael, Chris and D'Arcy will be in conversation with Yolanda Sanders of Glen Innes, a writer and former police officer who works with Corrective Services NSW as a probation and parole officer.

"Our region has seen its share of crime over the years, and I expect we'll be chatting about some pretty dark deeds in the human experience," Michael said, "although I always think the best approach is to engage a sense of humour. I look forward to meeting local readers."

Dark Deeds in the Highlands, Saturday December 6th, 2-4pm at The Makers Shed, New England Highway. This is a free event, including drinks and nibbles, books sales and signings. Just turn up or head to www.themakersshed.org for more information.

**DARK DEEDS
IN THE HIGHLANDS
AN AFTERNOON OF CRIME WRITING**

**Michael Burge in conversation
with D'Arcy Lloyd & Chris McIntosh
Moderated by Yolanda Sanders**

**HIGH COUNTRY BOOKS at The Makers Shed
New England Highway Deepwater
Saturday December 6th 2-4pm
www.themakersshed.com**

FREE EVENT just turn up for drinks & nibbles + book sales & signings



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Church Services:

Anglican Church Service (Forbes Street Deepwater & Moore Street Emmaville)
The Church services alternate weekly between Deepwater and Emmaville
if a Month has five Sundays the 5th Sunday will be in Torrington

- First Sunday Deepwater 9:00am
- Second Sunday Emmaville 9:00am
- Third Sunday Deepwater 9:00am
- Fourth Sunday Emmaville 9:00am
- Fifth Sunday Torrington 9:00am



Church Wardens Deepwater - Reuben Cooper 0499 868 321 **Emmaville** - Heather Reynolds 0428 347 252

Catholic Church Service (Simpson Street)
Sunday at 10 am

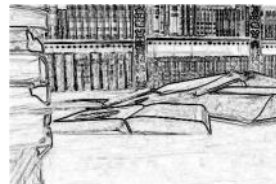
Church in the Shed (Deepwater School Of Arts Hall Tenterfield Street)
Sundays at 10 am

Deepwater Rubbish Tip Hours:

Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Saturday: 1:00 pm -3pm Sunday: 10am -12 noon

Library Service:

Wednesday 10 am - 12 pm and 1.30 pm - 4 pm
Home Library Service Deliveries 1 pm – 1.30 pm
Library will be closed from 17th December and
reopen Wednesday 14th January 2026



Preschool:

at the CWA Hall
Tuesday 9.00am – 3.00pm
Thursday 9.00am – 3.00pm



Progress Association Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday 10th December 5:15 pm at the School of Arts Hall
(Code Of Conduct Rules will be followed)
Everyone welcome.

Sewing Group

Meets Monday's at the School of Arts Hall
9am to 4pm - leave when you want to.



Tiny Tots Group

For Mums with little ones
Mondays 1pm—3 pm At the Anglican Church Deepwater
Refreshments provided.
Contact Trudy 0428 266 417 or Penny 0408 728 149



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7	2	3	1	5	9	6	4	8
8	5	9	4	6	3	7	1	2
2	7	6	9	8	1	5	3	4
4	3	1	7	2	5	8	9	6

Sudoku answer

For notices to be included, please send details to eventsdeepwater@gmail.com
Cut OFF date for the next Newsletter is 20 January 2026



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