

Rockley & District Community Newsletter

December 2025

Proudly sponsored by the Rockley & District Community Association Inc.

Dates for Your Diary December 2025		
DATE	EVENT, TIME and VENUE WHERE KNOWN	CONTACT
Tues & Thurs	Pilates Mat Classes 10:30am School of Arts Hall	Erin 0448 408 794
Fri 5	Christmas Carols 6:00pm Perthville Community Hall	
Mon 8	Rockley Presentation Day 9:30am School of Arts Hall, Hill Street	RPS 6337 9336
Sun 14	Rockley Artisans Market 9:00am – 1:00pm Stevens Park	
Sun 14 - 18 Jan	Rockley Mill & Stables Museum Opens by Appointment Only	
Wed 17	Novena Mass 6:00pm St. Patrick's, Phantom Street, Rockley	
Fri 19	Last Day School Term 4 Please Confirm With Your Own Schools	
Sun 21	St. Peter's Anglican Church Christmas Service 6:00pm Bring a Plate to Share for Light Supper	
Dates for Your Diary January 2026		
DATE	EVENT, TIME and VENUE WHERE KNOWN	CONTACT
Sun 18	Rockley Mill & Stables Museum Open 11:30am to 3:30pm	
Mon 2 Feb	First Day School Term 1 Please Confirm With Your own Schools	

Community Newsletter

Each issue of the Newsletter can be read on the Rockley Facebook page or can be emailed to those wishing to receive it electronically. An A4 copy is available to read in the Community Noticeboard in Stevens Park, Rockley.

If you would like to have the Newsletters emailed to you each month, (there is no January Newsletter) please contact Jasmin at justjasmin@bigpond.com

Rockley Mill & Stables Museum

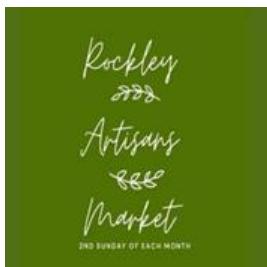
The Rockley Mill and Stables Museum will be closed over the Christmas/New Year break from 3:30pm Sunday 14th December to 11:30am Sunday 18th January 2026.



Manned by local volunteers, the Museum can be opened during this time by prior appointment. Please contact Jasmin by email at justjasmin@bigpond.com to arrange an appointment.

We are always very pleased to welcome new Mill Minders. Please contact Pauline on 0432 052 265 or email Jasmin as above, for further information.

Rockley Artisans Market



The next market will be held on
Sunday 14th December
9:00am – 1:00pm
Stevens Park Rockley

Rockley Waste Transfer Station

Opened and manned each Wednesday and Saturday between 2:00pm and 6:00pm during summer, it opens from 1:00pm to 5:00pm throughout winter

Rockley Studio & Fine Art Gallery

Rockley Studio & Fine Art Gallery is open by appointment.
Please contact Tim on 0413 037 436 for further information



Perthville News



Would you like to receive the Perthville News each month? Please send your email contact to perthvillenews@gmail.com to be included on the mailing list.



Christmas Carols at Perthville Hall
Join us for a festive evening of carols at Perthville Hall on Saturday 6th December at 6 pm. Bring your family, a picnic rug, and your holiday spirit for a night of music and community cheer!

St. Patrick's Catholic Church Novena Mass



St. Patrick's Catholic Church
NOVENA MASS
will be held on
Wednesday 17th December at 6:00pm
Join us for a cuppa after Mass.

St. Peter's Anglican Church Christmas Service



St. Peter's Anglican Church
CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Will be held on
Sunday 21st December at 6:00pm
Please bring a plate of goodies to share afterward.

St. Peter's Anglican Church News

St Peter's Anglican Church, Hill Street, is holding its Christmas service, to celebrate God's free gift of Salvation, for everyone who believes, through Jesus Christ born of the blessed Virgin Mary, on Sunday 21st December at 6:00pm. Please bring a plate of Christmas goodies to share along with tea and coffee that is provided.

As there will be no Christmas service at St Patrick's Catholic Church, a warm invitation is extended to all to share the Christmas message at St Peter's.

A new initiative to offer joyful peace and tranquility every weekday from 7:45am to approximately 8:15am, for the start of your day is being offered at St Peter's which will be open for quiet reflection and morning prayer with daily readings.

We are also hoping to introduce a monthly midweek, family breakfast, Morning Prayer, starting next month, to continue through the warmer months of next year, to connect to God, to help deepen your search for meaning, purpose and a sense of belonging into the community.

Courses and Reflection Days and Healing services shall also be offered next year, to deepen understanding of God's relationship with us. Flyers shall be distributed to advertise upcoming events.

Peace be with you all.

Church Services in Rockley

St Peter's Anglican Church, Hill Street, have their *Holy Communion Service* at **9:30am on the first Sunday** of each month except January, and in December, when a Christmas Service is held on the Sunday before Christmas Day.

Services are presently presided by *Rev Anastasia Webster-Hawes*. Morning tea follows. For current copies of the weekly Bathurst Anglican Bulletin, please visit www.bathurstanglican.org.au. The office landline for All Saints Anglican Cathedral, Church Street, Bathurst is 6331 4711. The office opens Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00am to 1:00pm or contact them via email at cathedral@bathurstanglican.org.au.

St. Patrick's Rockley Catholic Church, Phantom Street, celebrates Mass at **9:30am on the second Saturday** of each month, with the rostered priest from the Cathedral Parish of St. Michael and St. John. For current weekly *Cathedral Parish bulletins*, please visit <https://bathurst.catholic.org.au/bathurst>. Open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, contact the Catholic Presbytery office, George Street, Bathurst on 6331 3066, or email The Dean, Father Paul Devitt at dean.cathedral@cdob.org.au.

In Rockley, a small band of locals like to offer a quiet and reflective **Ecumenical (all denominations) Worship service**, encouraged by the Cathedral Parish, at St Patrick's Catholic Church each Sunday 9:30am every weekend (except the second weekend of the month). All residents and visitors to Rockley are most welcomed to attend throughout the year.

Earthwatch with Galileo

From The Conversation: on a map of the world the sub-continent of India spans roughly 3.2 million square kilometres – an area larger than that burned in wildfires across the globe in the past year alone.

Scientists from around the world worked together to find out if the devastation was due to climate change, using satellite and computer models – and in this landmark study the answer is: Yes.

It's still not too late – we need stronger and faster climate action to cut fossil fuel emissions, protect nature and reduce land clearing; let's hope the COP30 summit in Brazil results in real, positive, urgent attention to this threat to our common home – the most serious of housing crises... Ciao for now...

Ben Chifley Catchment Group News

"Caring for our Waterways"

**BEN CHIFLEY
CATCHMENT GROUP**

The Ben Chifley Catchment Steering Committee Inc. was established in the mid-1990s, by several land care groups. Our aim is "Caring for our Waterways." The group undertakes activities that improve the quality of water in the Catchment area. Projects

include soil conservation measures and tree plantings. If you have any projects on your property such as gully fencing, soil erosion remediation or tree planting please contact Louise, the BCCSC Secretary, on 0407 214 508. Projects need to be inspected before approval.

Rockley Gardens & Art Festival

Well, that's a wrap for the 2025 RROCKLEY GARDENS AND ART FESTIVAL! While there can always be more visitors, it was an enjoyable weekend, with the gardens looking spectacular and the weather actually being mainly in our favour! - except for wind making it near impossible to cover and decorate outdoor dining tables and a short burst of rain and hail.

The Festival was opened at the Art Exhibition in the School of Arts Hall by our mayor, Robert (Stumpy) Taylor on the Friday night with the display well received and complemented all round.

The exhibition is unusual in that the artists showing their work are predominately local, with those that aren't having at least a long association with Rockley, through work, friendships, or frequent visitation. Many exhibitions of this sort are usually open to artists from an open geographical area, but Rockley shows the growing amazing quality and diversity of work of its own people - remarkable in a village with such a small population. A number of artists made some excellent sales, with funds raised going toward the restoration of the historic building.

If you are a local and have never visited the Festival, perhaps next year with new Gardens and an extra art show will be your turn as your involvement promotes and supports the small but active village of Rockley.

The Peoples' Choice Award this year was won (twice!!!) by local artist Tanya Connor - 2 of her 3 pastel works received equal votes from visitors to the exhibition - but sadly for Tanya, she only gets one prize money !

If you have any comments or suggestions on the Art Exhibition, or the Festival in general, please let me know.

Also, if you feel you would be a great addition and help to the very small organising committee, please be in touch.

Many thanks to everyone who attended or helped in any way.

Dianne. 0413 978 786

Tanya's prize-winning pastel works, *Winter Wonderland - Hobby's Yards*



and, below *Campbell's River*



Cooking Column

Greek Short Bread Biscuits - Kourabiedes

from Eli Giannopoulos, www.mygreekdish.com



I've made these biscuits many times. They are usually made for Greek weddings and baptisms, but I think they are special enough to serve at Christmas.

Ingredients

250g butter
150g blanched almonds
50g blanched almonds
75g icing sugar
1 tbsp rose water or brandy

½ tsp vanilla paste
1 tbsp baking powder
A pinch of salt
400g plain flour
Extra icing sugar for dusting

Method

*To roast the first lot of almonds – 150g – put blanched almonds in a dry frypan on medium high heat and shake the pan until they are golden brown. Roasting happens quickly once they reach temperature so don't walk away and leave them.

*The second lot of blanched almonds – 50g - needs to be powdered in a blender.

*In a food processor, add the cold butter and sugar; mix for about 10 seconds. Add the powdered almonds, a pinch of salt, rosewater or brandy, and the vanilla paste; mix 10 – 20 seconds, until combined. Add the baking powder and flour and mix again for 10 – 15 seconds.

*Place the mixture in a large bowl.

*Roughly chop the roasted almonds and when they are cold incorporate them into the mixture with your hands quickly trying not to allow the butter in the mixture to become warm. (Put the mixture in the fridge while you preheat the oven and line the trays with baking paper.

*Preheat the oven to 170 C fan or 350 F

*For each biscuit take about a tablespoon of mixture and form it into a crescent shape. Continue to make enough for two trays.

*Bake for approximately 15 – 20 minutes, until they have a golden tint and are cooked through.

Don't lift them off the baking tray until cooled or they may break.

*Once cool drench them in icing sugar and store in an airtight container.

Kids Column

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- 1 What is the name of the snowman in the Disney movie Frozen?
- 2 True or false: There are three towns/cities in the United States named Santa Claus?
- 3 The lyrics, 'Holidays are coming, Holidays are coming' feature in Christmas adverts for which famous drinks company?
- 4 In which country is Father Christmas known as Weihnachtsmann?
- 5 What four letter word is an abbreviation of the word 'Christmas'?
- 6 Where does Santa live?
- 7 True or false: In Japan, millions of people eat KFC for their main Christmas meal?
- 8 Santa Claus is also known as Saint who?
- 9 True or false: As a family tradition in Sweden, millions of people settle down on Christmas Eve to watch Donald Duck?
- 10 Tradition has it that in order to bring good luck, people should do what on each of the twelve days of Christmas - A) Eat a mince pie B) Open a present C) Pull a cracker
- 11 What is the name of the lead character in the movie Elf: A) Ronald the Reindeer B) Alfie the Elf C) Buddy the Elf
- 12 How many points does a snowflake have?
- 13 In The Simpsons, who or what is called Santa's Little Helper?
- 14 What is the name of the evergreen plant that it's traditional to kiss under?
- 15 What might a naughty child find in their stocking on Christmas morning?
- 16 What is the name of the 25 days leading up to Christmas?
- 17 What is lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
- 18 Who were the first people to visit the baby Jesus? A) Shepherds B) Three Kings C) Three Queens
- 19 Which reindeer is said to be the most famous reindeer of all?
- 20 Which popular Christmas movie is about a young boy who takes a train ride to the North Pole?

