



## Christmas Office Hours



Regional Housing Limited will be closed from 3pm on Thursday 24 December 2015 and will reopen at 9am Monday 4 January 2016. Urgent matters or emergency maintenance only can be directed to 0412 699 087 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Closed on Australia Day 26 January 2016.



### Message from the CEO

Christmas is a wonderful time to reflect on the year we've just had while looking forward to all the possibilities the year ahead will bring.

Regional Housing Limited (RHL) this year has received funding from the Queensland Government to develop housing for people with a disability. Disability housing is something we have been preparing to focus on for some time, and it is exciting to be given the opportunity to begin that journey by developing eight highly innovative units for the Bundaberg community.

The inaugural Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Housing Forum was held in November 2015 and saw funded-housing providers from across the region come together for the first time in many years, with overwhelming support and attendance from state government and peak bodies. We look forward to the opportunities this annual event will bring forward to all corners of our region, as well as improving our networking and use of resources.

It would be impossible to think about the past year and not mention the hard work, successes and challenges faced by our frontline staff. Each month we housed (on average) 17 new households and assisted an additional 40 households into sustainable housing outcomes. This shines a positive light on the fantastic work that our staff do each and every day, but at the same time, is a sad reflection on the social issues which continue to affect our community that there continues to be such demand for our services.

I am excited about the prospects that lie ahead in 2016 but as we approach another Christmas season, with all the joy, excitement and merriment that is part of the tradition, on behalf of the Board, Management and staff, I am delighted to extend Season's Greetings to all our tenants, stakeholders, friends, associates and partners of RHL. We wish you a very happy holiday season and an incoming year filled with peace, fun and laughter.

*Happy Holidays*

### Need to pay rent over the holidays?

You can pay rent via direct debit into our bank account. Just remember to use your reference number when making the payment so we can assign the money to you. Your Tenancy Manager can provide you with your reference number.

Bank	Westpac
Account name	Regional Housing Limited
BSB	034 122
Account number	525 089

### Be part of our Newsletter! Send us your stories, tips or hints!

We would love to include your stories, photos, budget tips, etc. in our upcoming editions. Is there a poem or short story you would love to share? Keep it PG and send it to us! Contributions are very welcome.

Email: [info@regionalhousing.org.au](mailto:info@regionalhousing.org.au) Attention: Laura or drop into one of our offices.



# What's ON...



**Check out these exciting community events this Summer!!!**

## **Christmas in the Park**

**25 December 2015 - 11:30am to 2:00pm**

A free lunch in Alexandra Park for the homeless and needy families of the Bundaberg City area.

Includes a BBQ Sausage Sizzle, chicken and salads, soft drink (no alcohol permitted) and more.....

All are welcome!!!

**Address:** Alexandra Park—Near the gazebo

**For more information or to donate to the event, please contact Matthew Johnson:**

**Phone:** 07 4153 6718      **Mobile:** 0432 337 551

**Email:** mattyrabbit@hotmail.com

## **Bundaberg Brewed Drinks New Years Eve Fireworks**

**31 December 2015**

The Bundaberg Brewed Drinks New Years Eve Fireworks are now an annual signature event for the Coral Coast where locals and visitors join together to celebrate the arrival of the New Year in Bargara. The Bargara Progress Association organises the fireworks with support from local businesses.

This year the fireworks will be at Nielson Park, Bargara, in partnership with the Junior Bundaberg Surf Lifesaving Club and the focus is on creating a safe, family-friendly, and alcohol-free event. Nielson Park also has great facilities like public toilets, children's playground and a large open space.

**Address:** Nielson Park, Bargara, Queensland 4670

**Mobile:** 0407 626 371

**Email:** [president@bargaraprogress.org.au](mailto:president@bargaraprogress.org.au)

## **The Auswide Bank and Harvey Norman NYE Spectacular**

**31 December 2015**

The Auswide Bank and Harvey Norman New Year's Eve Spectacular is a free, fun-filled family event that will be celebrated in Bundaberg's Central Business District. Two dazzling fireworks displays at 8.30pm and midnight emanating from the Burnett River Traffic Bridge will light up the night sky. Stallholders, food vendors and kids' amusement rides located in Anzac park will add to the party atmosphere. A great way to see the New Year in!

**Address:** Anzac Park 21A Quay Street Bundaberg, Queensland 4670

**Phone:** 07 4130 4176      **Fax:** 07 4150 5410

**Tollfree:** 1300 883 699

## **New Year's Eve Hervey Bay**

New Years Eve will be held at the Torquay Foreshore (Ernie Organ Park) from 4pm-8pm on 31st December. There will be free activities, jumping castles, face-painting, balloon sculptor and entertainment from Dan Boulton & SeaNic Sounds. There will be a firework finale at 8pm. The Torquay markets will be running on the night so they may have some food vendors as part of their market.

**Address:** Torquay, Hervey Bay, Queensland 4655

**Phone:** 07 4196 9600

**Email:** [events@frasercoastopportunities.com.au](mailto:events@frasercoastopportunities.com.au)

**Website:** [www.frasercoastevents.com.au](http://www.frasercoastevents.com.au)

## **Bundaberg Australia Day Fun Day 26 January 2016**

Celebrate at Bundaberg City Daybreak Rotary Club's Australia Day - Jackie Howe Australiana.

**Address:** Bundaberg Botanic Gardens, Mt Perry Road, Bundaberg North, Queensland 4670

**Mobile:** 0406 725 982      **Email:** [gacarol@bigpond.com](mailto:gacarol@bigpond.com)





## AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE CONTACT

0412 699 087

## Going away this holiday season?



Points to keep in mind prior to leaving regarding the security for our homes.

- \* Inform a friend/family member of your absence, and leave a contact name and number.
- \* Check all doors and windows are operational, and capable of being securely locked.
- \* Arrange for mail to be held at the Post Office or collected by a neighbour.
- \* Cancel all deliveries while you are away, especially newspapers.
- \* Ask a neighbour/friend/family member to collect junk mail.
- \* Check your yard and house to ensure that no valuables are visible, criminals can be easily enticed.
- \* Ask neighbours to contact Police if they observe anything suspicious while you are away.
- \* Can a neighbour/friend/family member park their vehicle in your driveway at staggered times while you are away.
- \* Don't leave keys concealed outside of your home. Give them to a trusted person.
- \* Ensure that all of your valuable possessions are marked via police engraving – the Property Identification System. If you are unfortunate enough to have property stolen, when these items are discovered by police, they can easily be linked back to you as the owner.

Take the time to consider these suggestions, a great holiday can be ruined upon returning home to discover that a criminal has unlawfully entered your home and stolen your possessions.

Enjoy your break!



### Tenant Participation Advisory Group

Interested in taking part in influencing decisions about housing and sharing ideas to improve the quality of RHL's services? Why not nominate yourself to be part of the Tenant Participation Advisory Group?

Email [info@regionalhousing.org.au](mailto:info@regionalhousing.org.au) attention Wendy or phone the office and ask for Wendy.

### Thank you for your feedback!

The October 2015 General Client Survey has been a great success with 126 responses received. Please find a brief overview of the results below:

- 100% rated RHL as satisfactory (3.97%) or higher (96.03%) in relation to staff showing understanding, dignity and respect
- 98.42% rated staff as satisfactory (6.35%) or higher (92.07%) in relation to overall satisfaction with our company

Thank you to everyone who provided us with feedback. This helps RHL to provide the best possible services to our community and we value your comments and ideas.



### In Memorial

Board, Management and Staff of Regional Housing Limited wish to acknowledge the dedication and vibrance Mr Lou Gatti (RHL Board Secretary) brought to our organisation over many years.

Lou will be sadly missed.

# Recipes

Make these beautiful treats as Christmas food gifts for friends and family, or give into temptation and keep them for yourself!!

## Christmas Pudding Truffles



### Ingredients

750g Christmas pudding or fruitcake  
100g dark chocolate, chopped  
30g Western Star Chef's Choice Premium Cultured Unsalted Butter  
2 tablespoons brandy (optional)  
200g white chocolate, chopped  
12 red glacé cherries, quartered and thinly sliced  
12 green glacé cherries, quartered and thinly sliced

### Method

#### Step 1

Break up the Christmas pudding or fruitcake in the bowl of a food processor and blitz until it forms coarse crumbs.

#### Step 2

Place the dark chocolate and butter in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water. Stir until the ingredients melt together and the mixture becomes smooth. Add the melted chocolate and brandy to the Christmas pudding or fruitcake crumbs, and stir to combine.

#### Step 3

Line a tray with baking paper. Roll large tablespoonful's of the mixture into balls, and place on the lined tray. Transfer into the fridge to chill for 45 minutes.

#### Step 4

Meanwhile, place the white chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water. Stir until the chocolate has melted and becomes smooth. Use a teaspoon or piping bag to drizzle the melted white chocolate over the truffles, and decorate with the slices of cherries.

## Choc-Coconut Christmas Balls



### Ingredients

250g packet plain sweet biscuits  
180g block dark chocolate, chopped  
395g can sweetened condensed milk  
1 1/2 cups desiccated coconut  
100g packet red glacé cherries, chopped

### Method

#### Step 1

Line a large tray with baking paper. Process biscuits until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Transfer to a bowl.

#### Step 2

Place chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on medium-high (75%) for 1 to 2 minutes, stirring with a metal spoon every 30 seconds, or until smooth.

#### Step 3

Add chocolate, condensed milk, 1/2 cup coconut and cherries to biscuit. Mix to combine. Place remaining coconut in a bowl. Using damp hands, roll 1 level tablespoon mixture into a ball. Toss in coconut to coat.

