





*Shire of Serpentine  
Jarrahdale*

# LOW-WASTE CHRISTMAS GUIDE



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Serpentine  
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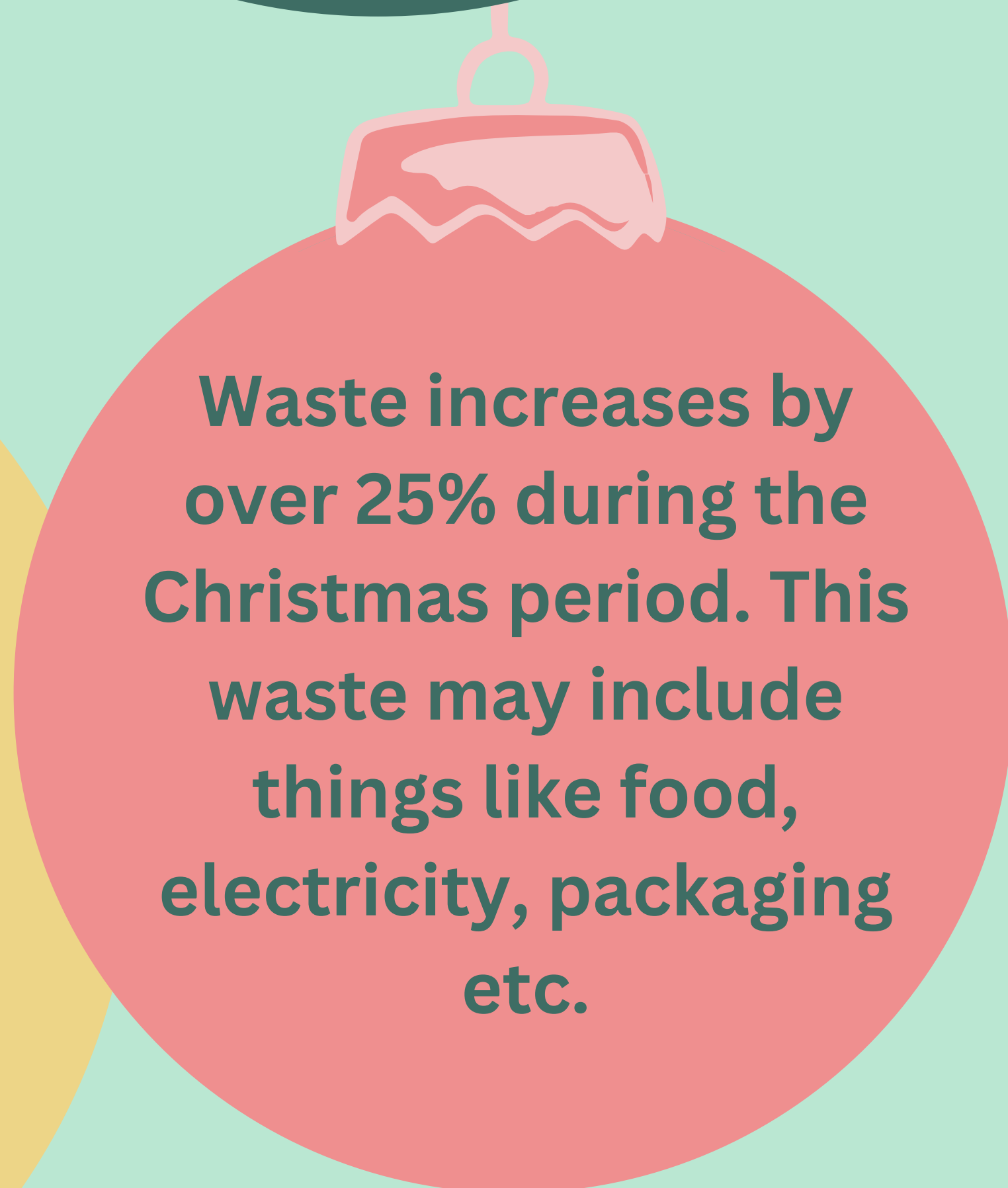


# WHY CHOOSE A LOW-WASTE CHRISTMAS?

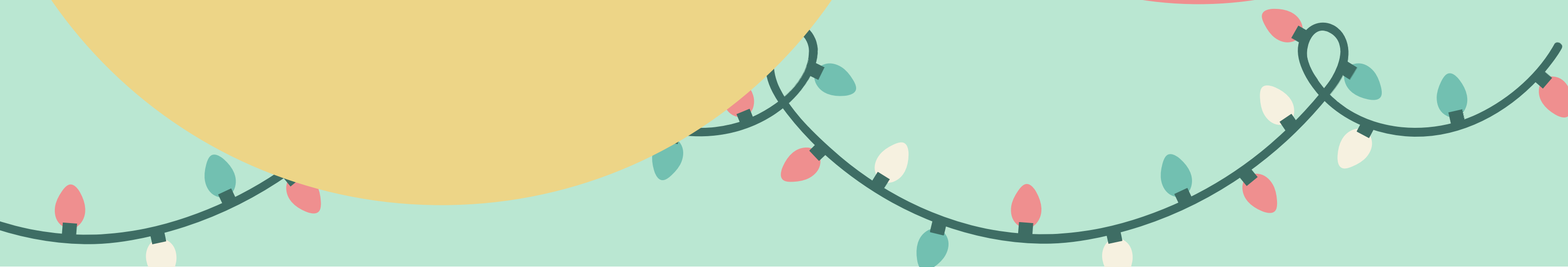


Australians waste approximately \$1 billion at Christmas through unwanted, unused, or unworn presents.

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- **Protect the Planet**
  - **Save Money**
  - **Gift with Meaning**
  - **Waste Less Food**
  - **Simplify the Season**
  - **Support Local**

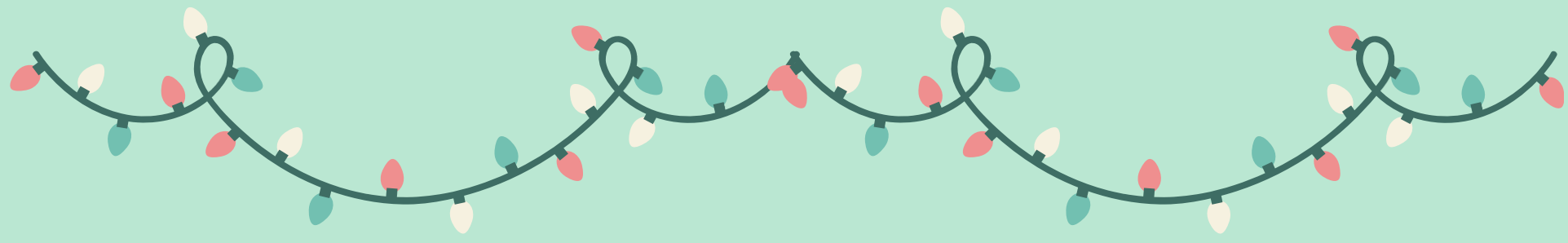


Waste increases by over 25% during the Christmas period. This waste may include things like food, electricity, packaging etc.





# SAVVY WAYS TO AVOID CHRISTMAS WASTE



## 1. Rethink Your Wrapping

Australians go all out at Christmas, using over **150,000 km of wrapping paper**. This is enough to wrap around the Earth's equator almost four times!

But here's the catch: **most wrapping paper can't be recycled**, thanks to glitter, foil, and plastic coatings.



**But don't worry, there are plenty of fun, low-waste alternatives:**

- **Fabric & Reusable Wraps:** Try Furoshiki cloths, fabric scraps, or handmade drawstring bags for beautiful, reusable wrapping.
- **Paper Options:** Use kraft paper, scrap or newspaper, or repurposed shopping bags for simple, recyclable wrap.
- **Gift Within a Gift:** Wrap with a scarf, tote, tea towel, or box that becomes part of the present.







## 2. Save Money, Time, and the Planet with Secret Santa

Secret Santa is a win-win for your wallet, your sanity, and the planet! Limiting each person to just one gift cuts down on clutter, packaging, costs, and the stress of buying multiple presents. It encourages thoughtful, useful gifts instead of expensive extras that might end up in landfill. Plus, handmade, upcycled, or regifted ideas make the tradition fun, budget-friendly, and low-waste all in one!

To make the process even easier, there are plenty of websites that can randomly assign Secret Santa matches when you simply enter everyone's email address — no more drawing names from a hat.

## 3. Share Love with Homemade gifts

Homemade gifts are a clever low-waste choice as they cut down on packaging, make use of repurposed materials, and create thoughtful, personalised presents your recipients will love.

Here are some ideas:

- **Baked goods:** Cookies, slices, or bread.
- **Preserves:** Jam, chutney, or preserves in recycled jars, decorated with twine or fabric scraps.
- **Self-care gifts:** Candles in recycled jars or tins, or bath salts, scrubs, and soaps made with natural ingredients in reusable containers.
- **DIY coupons:** For babysitting, home-cooked meals, mowing the lawn, washing the car etc.



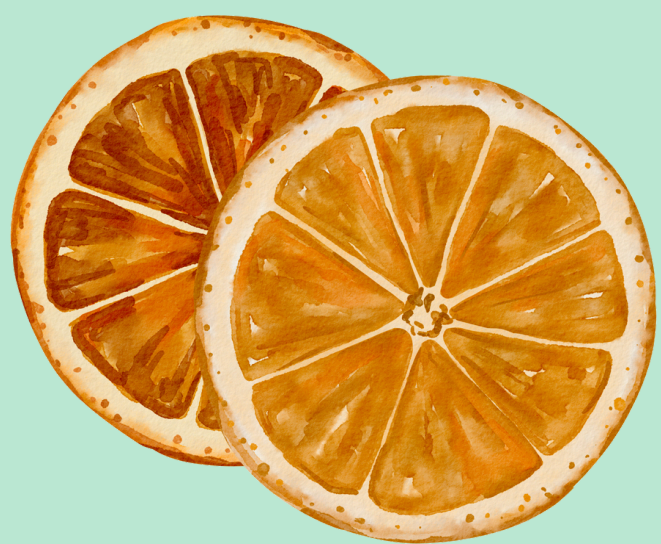
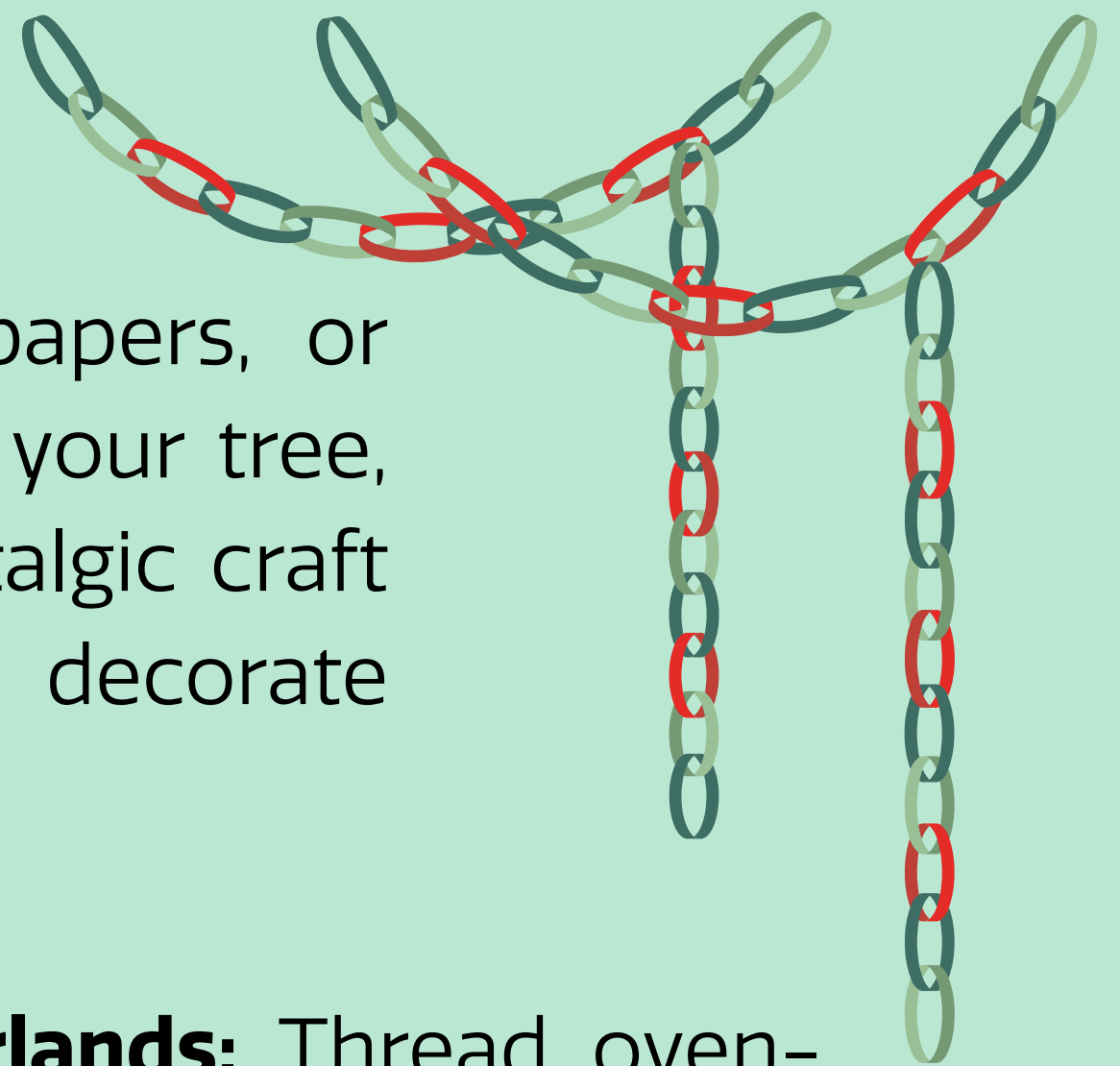


## 4. DIY Christmas Decorations



**Wreaths:** Give your door an Aussie twist! Mount eucalyptus, bottlebrush, wattle, or other native greenery on a reused frame. Compost when done, or use recycled fabric strips for a reusable option.

**Paper Chains:** Turn old magazines, newspapers, or scrap paper into colourful paper chains for your tree, windows, or mantelpiece. It's a simple, nostalgic craft that's fun for all ages and a great way to decorate without the waste.



**Dried citrus & Twine Garlands:** Thread oven-dried orange, lemon, or lime slices onto twine or ribbon. They smell great and can be composted after the holidays.

**Low-Waste Centrepieces:** Upcycle old glass jars into glowing centrepieces by adding a tealight candle or solar lights. To complete the look, decorate the outside with pressed native leaves or twine.

**Felt & Fabric Ornaments:** Use fabric scraps or old clothes to make stars, hearts, trees, or any shapes you like. Reusable and full of character, they also make unique gifts or keepsakes.





## 5. Decorate with Festive Bunting

Our Bunting Library is a community-led project where sewing lovers of all skill levels come together to create beautiful bunting from repurposed materials. The team has been working hard on their Christmas Bunting!

Bunting is a sustainable alternative to many other Christmas decorations because it can be made from upcycled fabrics, reused year after year, and avoids the single-use plastic and glitter often found in store-bought decorations.

To check out the bunting currently available for loan, for free, from the Byford Library, please scan the QR.



## 6. Buy Local

In a world where every choice counts, buying local is a simple, feel-good way to help the planet and support your community. Here's why going local is a win:

- **Support Your Community:** Purchasing from local makers, artisans, and small businesses keeps money in your neighbourhood and supports local talent.
- **Lower Carbon Footprint:** Locally made gifts travel shorter distances, reducing packaging and transport emissions compared with imported goods.
- **Unique & Personal:** Local products are often handmade or one-of-a-kind, making your gifts more thoughtful and meaningful.
- **Less Packaging Waste:** Many local shops use minimal or sustainable packaging, helping you reduce single-use plastics and excess wrapping.



## 7. Gift Cards: The Gift of Choice



Gift cards make a surprisingly low-waste and practical choice for Christmas. They sidestep piles of wrapping paper, boxes, and ribbon, while also giving the recipient the freedom to choose something they'll actually use.

## 8. Gift Memories, Not Things

More and more people are swapping physical presents for experience-based gifts and it's easy to see why:

**Better for the Planet** – Experience gifts create memories, not landfill. They avoid the packaging, plastics, and short-lived items that often come with traditional presents, making them a naturally low-waste choice.

**Strengthens Connections** – Sharing an activity, whether it's a workshop, a class, a day out, or a meal, brings people closer. Experiences help build meaningful moments that last far longer than most physical gifts.

**More Personal and Memorable** – Experience gifts feel thoughtful and intentional. They show you really know the person, and the memories created become part of the gift itself.

**Less Clutter, More Joy** – Instead of adding more “stuff” to already full homes, experiences offer time, learning, creativity, or relaxation.



# SERVICE-BASED GIFTS



## What are Service-Based Gifts?

Service-based gifts are presents that provide a useful action, experience, or professional help rather than a physical item. Instead of giving a tangible object, you're gifting something that someone can use, enjoy, or benefit from, such as:

- Home services: cleaning, gardening, repairs, or organisation
- Wellness services: massages, fitness classes, or spa treatments
- Support services: companionship for seniors, tutoring, or pet care

The key idea is that the gift is practical, meaningful, and often saves time or effort for the recipient, making it both thoughtful and highly useful.



Have you heard of **Better With Company?** They help older Australians stay socially connected, supported, and engaged by providing high-quality, non-clinical companionship services right in the comfort of their own homes.

[Find Out More Here.](#)



# LOCAL EXPERIENCES

## Wine & Dine

The Shire has many fantastic wineries and restaurants, making a dining voucher a perfect gift. It's a memorable, low-waste present that supports local businesses and focuses on shared experiences rather than clutter. Take a moment to explore what's on offer in SJ, you might be surprised by the great options nearby.



## Walking Tours

Give the gift of adventure this Christmas with a guided walking tour through the stunning natural landscapes of SJ. Since tours rarely run in summer due to heat and fire risk, consider creating a DIY voucher for a tour from the 2026 Walks Program. It's a thoughtful, clutter-free gift that offers a memorable way to connect with nature, uncover hidden gems, and support local guides.

- [Jarrahdale Heritage Society Tours](#)

## Workshops

Give the gift of creativity this Christmas with a workshop! From creating pottery to your own unique stained-glass pieces, there is something for everyone within the Shire.

- [Minky's Pottery, Byford](#)
- [Possums Run Glass Art, Jarrahdale](#)



# SUSTAINABLE GIFT IDEAS



## What makes a gift sustainable?

A sustainable gift is one that minimises environmental impact while providing value, meaning, or utility to the recipient. Key features include:

- **Eco-friendly materials:** Made from recycled, renewable, or responsibly sourced resources.
- **Longevity:** Designed to last, avoiding items that will quickly break, go out of style, or be discarded.
- **Low waste:** Minimal or reusable packaging, or gifts that don't add clutter.
- **Practical or experiential:** Gifts that are useful, consumable, or offer experiences instead of more "stuff."
- **Supports ethical practices:** Produced by businesses that prioritize fair labor, local sourcing, or environmentally responsible methods.

Here are just a few examples of sustainable gifts available in SJ:

### Native Plants

Give the gift of nature this Christmas with native plants! They are an eco-friendly and meaningful choice which provide habitat for local wildlife, are low-maintenance, and thrive in the Shire's climate. You can purchase a ready plant or a gift voucher so your loved ones can choose their own:

- [Australian Native Nursery, Oakford](#)





# SUSTAINABLE GIFT IDEAS



## **SJ Hampers**

Give a gift that's both delicious and sustainable with a hamper made from locally sourced produce from Serpentine Jarrahdale and the surrounding area. All hampers use compostable packaging with no plastics or single-use materials, making them a truly low-waste, thoughtful Christmas gift.

[Find Out More & Order Here](#)

## **Jarrahdale Tracks and Trails Booklets**

Give the gift of exploration with beautifully designed trail and history booklets from the Jarrahdale Heritage Society. These downloadable maps (or printed guides) highlight local walking trails, historic sites, and the natural beauty of the Jarrah forest, all while supporting heritage conservation.

[Purchase Guides Here](#)

## **Landcare Possum Boxes**

Purchase directly from Landcare.

These boxes help provide safe, natural homes for the possums which may be living on your property.

(12 Paterson St, Mundijong).



# SUSTAINABLE GIFT IDEAS

## Learn by Nature

This SJ Shire-based company creates handcrafted outdoor play products from carbon-neutral timber and sustainably sourced materials. Their open-ended designs spark creativity, imagination, and a love of nature. Customisable, durable, and built to last, their mud kitchens and sensory stations keep little ones learning and playing outdoors for years.

[www.learnbynature.com.au](http://www.learnbynature.com.au)

## Check out Pre-Loved Items!

Buying Christmas gifts from op shops is an eco-friendly, budget-conscious, and distinctive way to give. You can discover unique, non-mass-produced items that are thoughtful, personal, and affordable.



### **SJ Community Resource Centre Op Shop**

- 2 Paterson Street, Mundijong
- Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Gift vouchers available in store

### **SJ RSL Op Shop, Byford**

- 840 South Western Highway, Byford
- Open Wednesday – Friday

### **St Aidan's Op Shop & Cafe, Byford**

- Mary Street, Byford
- Open Wednesday and Friday

### **Salvos, Byford**

- 31 Abernethy Road, Byford.
- Open Monday – Saturday

### **Uniting Church Op Shop, Byford**

- Clifton Street, Byford
- Open Friday





**WISHING YOU  
A HAPPY &  
SAFE  
CHRISTMAS**



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