



SNIPPETS

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Seniors Enquiry Line
Linking Seniors with
Community Information

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Quote of the Month:

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take."

Wayne Gretzky

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Seniors Enquiry Line is an information and referral service for Queensland seniors, proudly sponsored by the Queensland Government and operated by UnitingCare Community.

Did You Know?

In 2007, it was widely predicted within the telecommunications industry that the iPhone would fail commercially.

CHRISTMAS - SCAMMERS BUSY TIME



Christmas can be an extremely busy time for people and while we are caught in the festivities and excitement of the season, it is easy to let our guard down and be a bit more relaxed. However it is important to keep vigilant for people trying to take advantage of you. Scammers are extremely active at this time of year and will target those who they feel they can exploit easily, so remember the basics. If it is too good to be true then it probably is. If you listen to

the actual words they are saying, in context, most scams can be easily detectable. Don't give out your personal information or your bank or credit card details. If you are asked to call them back, always check the number first either online or give **Seniors Enquiry Line** a call on **1300 135 500** and we will assist you in finding official numbers. Just by being cautious and aware you could save yourself a lot of time and distress and enjoy the Christmas you planned.

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS AT CHRISTMAS

We all spend more money than usual around Christmas time and it can be hard to keep the amount we spend in check. Not only do we buy presents but also cards, wrapping paper and food. The list goes on. Here are three ways that you may potentially save money.

- Discounted stamps at the post office for pensioners. Pay 60 cents instead of a dollar. Enquire at any post office.
- Utilise the Senior Shopper. They average savings of 9 - 13% on a large variety of items. They even have gift cards at discounted prices. Call them on 1300 366 265
- Buy your cards and wrapping paper after Christmas day is over as they are usually drastically discounted. You will then be ready for next year.

DECEMBER THROUGH HISTORY

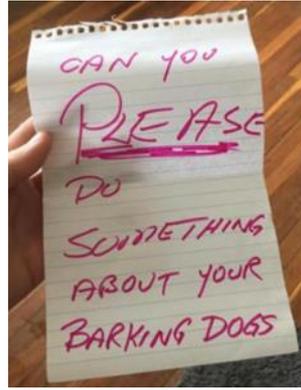
- 877** The tradition of the Twelve Days of Christmas begins.
- 1818** The song, "Silent Night", is composed.
- 1843** The first Christmas cards are created.
- 1843** Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is first published.
- 1854** The Battle of the Eureka Stockade is held near Ballarat.
- 1859** The rabbits responsible for Australia's rabbit plague are introduced.
- 1913** The first crossword puzzle is published.
- 1934** Judy Dench (Actress) is born.
- 1938** Australia hosts the first ever Carols by Candlelight.
- 1945** The first Sydney to Hobart yacht race is held.
- 1955** Dame Edna Everage makes her stage debut.
- 1963** Brad Pitt (Actor) is born.
- 1967** Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt goes missing whilst swimming.
- 1969** Surfer Greg Noll rides a 65-foot wave, the largest on record.
- 1974** Cyclone Tracy devastates Darwin.
- 1976** Wonder Woman debuts on TV.
- 1989** The first episode of The Simpsons airs on TV.
- 1980** John Lennon is assassinated.
- 1990** The two halves of the Channel Tunnel that link Britain to France are drilled out.
- 1998** Six die in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.
- 2004** Hundreds of thousands of people die as a tsunami hits southern Asia.

WHAT'S ON

With Christmas and New Years Eve just weeks away, there are activities and outings available throughout almost every area of Queensland. The best way to find what is happening in your area is to contact your local council, as they frequently provide community activities that are family friendly and cater for the festivities within your local area. If you are having troubles finding activities to do throughout the month of December, please call **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we will be happy to assist.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of the staff at Seniors Enquiry Line

THE NEIGHBOUR'S BARKING DOG



We have all lived next to someone whose dog barks excessively. They bark at nothing or at everything, day or night. You feel like you are anticipating the barking, creating within yourself a chasm of angst when you should be relaxing in your own space. We tend to deal with this situation in assertive, or at times, aggressive manners. We will find ourselves yelling at the dog, day or night or calling the council. We may even take the next step and write a nasty anonymous letters, which can be very confronting for the owner of the dog.

So how do we deal with this situation? Firstly it is important to understand that the owner of the dog may not be aware that their dog is barking. They may be at work or in a room where they cannot hear it. Not knowing and then receiving an abusive letter telling them to "shut their dog up" would obviously be distressing and offers no options for resolution. The same would occur if the council suddenly get in contact with them. The basic steps to address a neighbours dog barking in a non-confrontational community minded manner are as follows:

- ⇒ Speak with the neighbour politely
- ⇒ If you are not able or willing to do this, leave a polite letter. The Brisbane City Council (BCC) has a template available on their website, or **Seniors Enquiry Line** can send out a copy, simply call **1300 135 500**. Alternatively your local council may have a similar template. The letter should detail days and times and possible reasons. By providing these few details the owner then has some information to address the barking.
- ⇒ If the barking continues, contact your local council. The Brisbane City Council (BCC) states that approximately 2 out of 3 noise complaints are about dogs barking. Fines can apply which can start at over \$200

If the neighbourhood's barking dog is yours

Generally, dogs bark excessively because of Boredom, Excitement, Distress, Territorial Defence and/or Fear and Anxiety. Speak with your vet or the RSPCA for advice on eliminating or reducing your dog's barking.

*Information sourced from ABC News Website, 6 Oct 17 at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-05/how-to-properly-deal-with-a-neighbours-barking-dog/9014600>