



# The Islander



Christmas Island Community Newsletter

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## Viewing the red crab spawning



The annual breeding migration of Christmas Island's red crabs is one of the world's great animal migrations. It is a spectacular event, as tens of millions of red crabs march down from the rainforest to the ocean's edge, culminating in the mass spawning where millions of female crabs release their eggs into the sea.

Although it is difficult to predict the exact spawning date each year, the females generally spawn on an outgoing pre-dawn tide, during the last quarter of the moon. So this means that the expected spawning date is the **6-7 January 2016**. It is likely that some crabs will begin spawning a day or two earlier and others may continue a day or two afterwards, with diminishing numbers as time progresses.

When they spawn, females go down to the water's edge under the cover of darkness, around two hours before sunrise. If you want to watch the spawning, be on the beach by 4:00 am and bring a torch and your camera! As soon as the females spawn they immediately commence their return migration, departing the beaches and moving inland. Please drive carefully to avoid running over the returning female crabs and, if safe to do so, be prepared to rake them out of the way after watching the spawning.

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# CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

## 13 DECEMBER 2015

The weather was really unpredictable and we were praying for good weather but as Ron said have faith, and so it was, as the evening turned out to be a wonderful night. The church ground was beautiful and green, thanks to Laiby during Cowboy's absence and Ron for putting up the Christmas lights.

The choir had only a couple of practices before the actual day and they did a marvellous job, singing with joy and inviting all who came to take part in the singing. There was no band this year but the impromptu play, which involved the community taking part, was a great hit. Thanks to all those brave enough to put up their hands and be a part of the play. It was really appreciated. Without your involvement, the carols and play would not have been as successful as it was that night.



After the carols, Santa made a surprise visit on his local carriage. There were squeals of delight from the children and they all crowded around Santa. He danced his way through the excited children into the community wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. When everyone had settled down, Santa distributed small gifts and lolly bags to every child who was present. We follow the tradition of giving gifts but the actual gift is the birth of Jesus. Hopefully, all of us will remember this.

The community were then invited to a wonderful array of delicious food while Darren played a medley of music, keeping all entertained. The night ended all too soon and everyone went home with smiles on their faces and we hope, a night to remember.

Comments about the impromptu play were great. It is deeply moving to hear such wonderful comments from people who were at the play and that they enjoyed the impromptu play. Thank you everyone.

We would like to once again thank the Shire of Christmas Island and Christmas Island Phosphates for their generous sponsorship to this event.

Thanks also to the choir, Darren, participants from the crowd and all who helped in whatever way they could. All of you were wonderful and your participation and help is greatly appreciated.

