

Christmas in July 2023

When you arrive in Australia you will need to get used to the fact that the Southern Hemisphere's weather patterns will be as 'down under' and upside down to you as everything else! Doing your Christmas shopping in November or December, you may struggle to get your mind around seeing Santa Claus hats, snowflake decorations and reindeer gimmicks in every second shop when the weather is close to 35 degrees outside and everybody is at the beach trying to cool down.

Most Australians cannot imagine what it must be like to experience Christmas in winter, but often envisage a romanticized version with snow gently falling, families strolling through Christmas markets and couples enjoying mulled wine in front of an open fire. As we all know, sometimes (especially the snow which can often be more like drizzling rain) this is not the case and many of us would be more than happy to swap this for the Aussie sunshine!

Believe it or not, without Christmas to look forward to, the Aussie winter months (although fairly short-lived) can seem a little uneventful. The nights draw in early and once the sun drops it's time to grab a blanket and some comfort food. Many Aussies, in particular those ex-northern hemisphere residents, thought something was needed to brighten up the winter months. This is where the concept of 'Christmas in July' comes in. It is usually celebrated on 25th July and is getting more and more popular as the years go by!

The phrase originates from the 1940s film of the same name. Aussies celebrate with a traditional Christmas dinner, log fire (yes contrary to popular belief it does get cold enough in many locations!) and gathering of family and friends to mark the occasion. Houses and gardens are decorated with

traditional and festive Christmas memorabilia for passers-by to enjoy.

So, make sure you grab yourself a pair of UGG boots and take a warm jumper so you can cosy up in front of the fire and join the party!

