

Real Special Times

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Real Special News

Welcome to the last issue of Real Special Times for this year. The big news for us is that we have now started another business venture, Real Special Holidays. We are renting out a bach at Ruby Bay, and the purpose equipped property is family friendly with pet allowed by arrangement.



For the comfort of Deaf guests, it has a Deaf smoke alarm and Deaf doorbell installed (for more Deaf products , click here)

<http://www.realspecial.co.nz/deafpro.asp>

In the future we hope to equip the bach for wheelchairs etc but that will not be available this season. For details of the property, please click here to go to an external link:

www.holidayhouses.co.nz (reference 7979)

Real Special Offers

We have the following very popular products on special this month. For ease, the products are listed here with GST included but the GST is shown separately on our ebsite.

Wordshark: now only \$185 including GST
Develops spelling and reading.

Suitable for home use, primary and college students, and adults. Available in Windows and Mac.

Earobics: now only \$125 including GST.
Develops reading, processing, listening, spelling and memory Available in Home and Specialist editions.. Versions for all ages: 4 – 7 years, 7 – 10 years, 10+ and adults. Available in Windows, Mac and Mac OSX

Nessy GamesPlayer: now only \$67 including GST. It features all the fantastic computer games of the original but not the printable resources. Great for home use and to supplement schools with the full version. PC and Mac compatible and suitable for ages 7 – 14 approx.

Nessy Literacy Scheme: now only \$335 including GST. Complete literacy scheme to develop reading, writing and memory. 12 interactive games and over 1,500 downloadable resources. Suitable for home use, primary and college students and adults. Windows only.

New information on our website

On our printable order forms for parents, we have now changed the layout. For the benefit of Christian homeschoolers, etc., we have put a description of the graphics contained in the various software products to help you decide if it is appropriate for your child. These should appear on the relevant website categories very soon!

For example:

Earobics Step 2 (age 7 - 10). For 2 users + guest only.

Family friendly cartoon figures.

Wordshark 3.7 (new version)
(ages 4 – adult)

Has removable "gambling type" bonus game, plus has some "wizard" type graphics

Featured websites



The following sites all celebrate Christmas.

<http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/menu-act.html> Christian site that celebrates the first Christmas and its meaning. Has great activities to print, draw and colour, plus a wide selection of other games etc.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas/> Christmas crafts for kids, includes making puppets, angels, wreaths, trees, boxes.

www.activityvillage.co.uk/christmas_pages.htm Loads of free stuff to download – printables, jokes, alphabets, wallpaper, games, stories and more.

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/%7Eai251/xcarol.html> The words to some of the most popular Christmas carols.

http://www.foodnetwork.com/food/et_hd_christmas/article/0,,FOOD_9832_1753612,00.html Global Christmas recipes – which foods are used in the celebration in different parts of the world.

<http://www.siec.k12.in.us/%7Ewest/proj/clauser/leader.html> Its not only Santa that is busy this time of year – did you know Mrs Clause has a website too? You can email Mrs Clause and receive a response from this site. It also includes lots of reindeer information, riddles and jokes, craft ideas, and Christmas clip art.

December is a month of celebration for many cultures:

- Hanukkah (Jewish) -- Begins at sundown on December 15
- Saint Nicholas Day (Christian) -- December 6
- Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican) -- December 12
- St. Lucia Day (Swedish) -- December 13
- Christmas (Christian) -- December 25
- Boxing Day (Australian, Canadian, English, Irish) -- December 26
- Kwanzaa (African American) -- December 26 to January 1
- Omisoka (Japanese) -- December 31
- Eid'ul-Adha (Muslim) -- December 31 - January 2

Find out more about these different festivals by visiting

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson041.shtml

Sudoku for December

Using the numbers 1 through 9, the 81 squares in the grid must be filled so that every column, row and block contains the numbers 1 through 9. No number can repeat within any column, row or block.

		4				5	3	
6			1	3				9
	7					2		
			8			4	7	
			3		4			
	5	9		6				
		6					9	
9				7	1			5
	2	7				1		

Edith the poodle

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. What do you think of my Christmas party outfit – flashy eh? The pink satin top has pearl beads around the edge for decoration and has a matching skirt. I shall go to the ball!



Let me tell you the latest news – my family have rescued three paradise ducklings from an untimely death on the state highway. These ducks are native to New Zealand. We have now had them for a few weeks and they have already tripled in size. We are not sure if they are boy or girl ducks yet – female paradise ducks have white heads so we shall have to wait and see. My family would like to thank everyone who gave them advice on how to save the ducklings, namely the SPCA, Natureland, and in particular our new friends Ruth and Stephan from Diggers Valley at the top of the North Island.

They have some great photos of their own female Paradise duck – see their link below, plus I have found another information site.
<http://diggersvalley.co.nz/pages/MsDuck.htm>
<http://www.pateke-lagoons.co.nz>



This photo shows me trying to get in the cage with the ducklings!

Sudoku solution

1	9	4	7	2	6	5	3	8
6	8	2	1	3	5	7	4	9
3	7	5	9	4	8	2	6	1
2	3	1	5	8	9	4	7	6
7	6	8	3	1	4	9	5	2
4	5	9	2	6	7	8	1	3
8	1	6	4	5	2	3	9	7
9	4	3	8	7	1	6	2	5
5	2	7	6	9	3	1	8	4

Easy Christmas recipes

Here are two really great dessert recipes to wow your friends and relatives when they visit.

Easy Chocolate Mousse

Please note: as this recipe has raw egg, it is not advised for pregnant women.

Ingredients:

300ml Single cream
250gm Dark chocolate chopped up (or buy some ready prepared chocolate chips)
3 egg yolks (you could use the whites to make that great N^o special - a pavlova – see below)
1tsp vanilla essence

Method

1. Heat the cream in a pan until just about to boil.
2. Put all the other ingredients into a blender and pour the cream over it.
3. Blend them all together until the noise stops
4. Pour the mixture into small glasses.
5. Chill for at least 3 hours (or preferably overnight)
6. Serve with a swirl of whipped cream, grated chocolate on top, sliced strawberries etc (or as it's Christmas, why not all three!)



Pavlova - the great kiwi favourite

Ingredients:

3 egg whites (you can use the ones left over from the chocolate mousse recipe)
1 cup of caster sugar
1tsp vanilla essence
1tbsp cornflour
1tbsp vinegar

Method:

1. Heat oven to 120°C (very low).
2. Beat egg whites in a non-plastic bowl until stiff
3. 1tsp at a time, slowly add the sugar and keep beating (an electric beater is ideal. The mixture will become thick, glossy and pure white.
4. Add the vanilla essence, cornflour and vinegar. Mix well.
5. Pour the mixture onto a baking paper-lined tray.
6. Smooth into a flat round shape but not too thin.
7. Cook for 1 hour, then cool on the tray. Cover with whipped cream, fruit (diced kiwifruit is a N^o favourite), and choc chips.



Have a very Happy Holiday!

Thank you to all the increasing number of those people who have subscribed – it is nice to know that you find the publication interesting. Don't forget to send us any suggestions as to how we can improve it for you.

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