

**REFLECTION**  
**THE WHOLE EARTH COMMUNITY**  
**CELEBRATES**



*For suggestions for a sustainable celebration visit*  
<http://www.foe.org.au/news/2007/a-sustainable-christmas-solstice-hannukah-end-of-year/>

**December: A Season of Celebration**

December: Christmas, Hanukkah, Summer Solstice, holiday season. Whatever your faith, culture or philosophy, this is a time when people come together to share food and drink. A time for parties and gift-giving. A time for sending cards and letters. A time to reconnect with friends, both old and new.

It is a time when local communities celebrate, when religious communities remember and re-tell their sacred stories.

Homes, shops and streets are alight with colour and movement.

Across Australia the sun shines brightly and the days are long, giving plenty of time for socialising in the evenings.

In south-east Queensland sudden sharp storms cool the summer afternoons, cleanse the air, and refresh humans and non-humans alike.

By mid-summer the spring-hatched birds are flying independently, giving their exhausted extended families some relief from the endless cycle of satisfying the seemingly-insatiable appetites of their chicks.

The delicate yellow and mauve blossoms of spring have given way to displays of vivid red as the poincianas burst into bloom, and the bottle brushes thrust forth their boldly coloured flower spikes.

It is a vibrant, exuberant, joyous time.

***A time to celebrate***

***A time to give thanks***

- ◇ ***for the gift of life***
- ◇ ***for the joy of community***
- ◇ ***for the wonder of the earth***