Christmas in Australia

In Australia**, Christmas comes in the beginning of the summer holidays**! Children have their summer holidays from mid December to early February, so some people might even be camping at Christmas.

Because **it's so hot** at Christmas time in Australia, there are quite often huge fires across the country. Many volunteer fire fighters are trying to save people’s lives and houses, so they usually travel all over Australia to offer their help.

Some **Australians** hang wreaths(στεφάνια) on their front doors to **decorate their houses during the holidays** and others also decorate their houses and gardens with Christmas Trees and Christmas lights. **Neighbors sometimes have little competitions** to see who has got the best light display. The neighbors often visit each other to look at the light displays at night.

**Some people have fun going out Christmas carol singing** on Christmas Eve. In each big city there is a large  Candlelight service(λειτουργία) where famous Australian singers help to sing along the carols and quite often this holy night is presented on TV across Australia. As it is the middle of Summer in Australia at Christmas time, **the words to the Carols about snow and the cold winter are sometimes changed to special Australian words!**

**Most towns and cities have festivals and parades. In some places, there is a fireworks display at the local park.**

When he gets to Australia, **Santa** sometimes gives the reindeers a rest and might use kangaroos. He also **changes his clothes for less 'hot' ones!**

Presents are normally exchanged between families on Christmas Day because **there is an old tradition for Australians to spend Boxing Day**, the 26th of December, **outdoors**. They like to visit their friends, and to have seafood barbecues at the beach, or take part in different sports activities.