

The Country Energy Christmas Lights Competition 2010

Presented by Country Energy, Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Quirindi Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Tourism Inc, Whispering Pines Retreat, Quirindi Branch of CWA and Mrs Lois Slade .

ENTRY FORM

- Best Tree – Sponsored by Quirindi Chamber of Commerce (\$100 Chamber Voucher)
- Best Santa – Sponsored by Quirindi Branch of CWA (\$50 Voucher)
- Best Lights Display – Sponsored by Country Energy (\$100 Coles Myer Voucher)
- Best Nativity – Sponsored by Country Energy (\$75 Coles Myer Voucher)
- Best All Rounder – Sponsored by Country Energy (\$200 Coles Myer Voucher)
- Best Street – Sponsored by Country Energy (\$100 Coles Myer Voucher)
- Best Shop Front – Sponsored by Country Energy (\$100 Coles Myer Voucher)
- Encouragement Award – Sponsored by Mrs Lois Slade & Whispering Pines Retreat (Hand Painted Plate from Mrs Lois Slade & \$30 from Whispering Pines Retreat)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Entries to be received at the Council Administration Office, PO Box 152, 60 Station Street, Quirindi, by 4.00pm Friday 10 December 2010. Judging will be held during the week commencing Monday 13 December 2010. All competitors will be invited to a presentation function to be held in the Council Chamber in the week prior to Christmas.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council: PO Box 152, QUIRINDI NSW 2343
Phone: 02 6746 1755 Fax: 02 6746 3255

**Mrs. Lois Slade &
CWA of NSW
Quirindi Branch**



CHRISTMAS LIGHT SAFETY



Below are some simple safety guidelines that should be followed in order to help keep your family safe and free to have a joyous Christmas.

What should I do before putting up my Christmas lights?

- Inspect old Christmas lights and electrical wires for any sign of damage or wear and tear.
- Check that all globes are properly fitted and don't use light sets with missing globes, so as to prevent other conductive items being placed inside the light socket.



- Read the light manufacturers' safety and installation instructions and follow these carefully.
- Only purchase lights which meet Australian safety standards.
- Position your Christmas lights away from flammable materials such as curtains and sofas.

Tips on putting up your Christmas lights

- Do not place lights close to tinsel and flammable decorations as the heat from lights could start a fire if they are left on for a long time.
- Take care not to overcrowd power points or use multiple double adaptors, keep power points and adaptors out of reach of children.
- When decorating the outside of your house choose lights and light fittings designed for **external** use.

- Take care not to string lights or electrical leads on or near overhead powerlines or the point where the overhead powerlines connect to your house.
- Be aware of the location and height of powerlines when carrying and setting up ladders, Christmas trees, decorations etc.
- Wear non-slip footwear and safety equipment when climbing ladders and installing lights on the roof and other hard to reach areas.

What else can I do to be power safe this Christmas?

- Place extension cords in low traffic areas where they won't be a trip hazard or become damaged.
- Switch off the power before plugging in or pulling out the plug and hold the plug not the cord.
- Keep power boards and adaptors to a minimum and out of reach of children.
- Check you have a safety switch in your meter box or have a qualified electrician install one.

For more information

Country Energy's Public Safety team is available to conduct Electrical Awareness sessions and discuss any questions relating to electrical safety.

For more information on electrical safety please call Country Energy:

General enquiries 13 23 56

Supply interruptions 13 20 80

or visit www.countryenergy.com.au/safety

Safety first:

- Remember to unplug your Christmas lights before going to bed.
- Educate children of the importance of electrical safety and the danger of damaging electrical equipment.
- Store and pack Christmas lights in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.
- Don't install, move or adjust Christmas lights whilst they are turned on.
- Ensure smoke detectors are installed in your home and are in good working order.



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Christmas lights safety checklist



Do

- ✓ Make electrical safety a high priority
- ✓ Choose lights and fittings designed for external use only when decorating the outside of the house
- ✓ Wear non-slip footwear when climbing ladders and installing lights on the roof and other hard to reach areas
- ✓ Be mindful of the location and height of powerlines when carrying and setting up ladders
- ✓ Only purchase lights which meet Australian safety standards
- ✓ Educate children about the danger of damaging electrical equipment and the importance of electrical safety
- ✓ Keep power points and adaptors out of reach of children
- ✓ Follow Country Energy's recommendation of installing a safety switch in your meter box. These switches disconnect power in the event of an electrical fault
- ✓ Read the light manufacturers' safety and installation instructions and follow carefully
- ✓ Secure lights to avoid breakage in wind and storms
- ✓ Give preference to extra low voltage equipment
- ✓ INVOLVE THE WHOLE FAMILY AND HAVE FUN!

Don't

- ✗ Position the Christmas tree near flammable materials such as curtains and sofas
- ✗ Overcrowd powerpoints or use multiple double adaptors
- ✗ Run extension cords near high-traffic areas where someone could trip over
- ✗ Forget to inspect old lights and electrical wires for any sign of damage, wear and tear or frayed or broken leads
- ✗ Forget to check that all globes are properly fitted
- ✗ Use light sets which have missing globes
- ✗ Forget to unplug the Christmas tree before you go to bed
- ✗ String lights or electrical leads on or near overhead powerlines, swimming pools, ponds or the point where the overhead powerlines connect to your house
- ✗ Install, move or adjust lights while they are turned on
- ✗ Modify or alter light kits
- ✗ Place Christmas tree lights near tinsel, as the heat could start a fire if the lights are left on for a long time.

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We live here too.