



**Collie Chamber of
Commerce & Industry Inc**

Dear Chamber Member,

Over 30 members joined us on Wednesday 16th November for our final Business-After-Hours for the year at the Collie Heights Motel/Apartments. We all enjoyed Wendy's wonderful cooking and Jim's conversation. It was great to see so many of our 40+ new members and of course the long termers.

This is of course our last newsletter of the year and we wish you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR!

All mum's are run off their feet at Christmas and Rebecca is no different busily organising the Collie Chamber Christmas Treasure Hunt and starting renewals for the 2012 Business & Telephone Directory. Please support her by sending in your 2012 Directory adverts as soon as possible.

Thank you again to the Collie Mail for supporting the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Treasure Hunt. Some lucky person will be receiving a big surprise at the Pageant on Friday 16th December when the President of the Chamber Andrew Bonnell announces the winner. Remember to win it you have to be in it!

Bek and I are looking forward to catching up with you all in the New Year

HAVE FUN!

Richard Jackson

CEO,

Collie Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Tel.(08)9734 4817 or email admin@colliechamber.asn.au

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IMPORTANT WARNING

In only the second public warning notice ever issued by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, employers have been urged to be wary of a company making misrepresentations about the workplace safety products it sells.

The notice alleges that Safety Compliance Pty Ltd, which operates from Tweed Heads in NSW, has "engaged in harassment, coercion and misleading or deceptive conduct" in all Australian states and the Northern Territory through telephone calls.

An ACCC spokesperson told that it was suspected the company had been informing employers that they were required to purchase the wall charts, flip charts, fire-escape-plan posters and CPR charts it sold in order to comply with safety laws.

It had falsely claimed to be affiliated with workplace health and safety regulators, and warned employers they were likely to be fined by inspectors if they didn't have the posters and charts in place.

Businesses approached by Safety Compliance have

been advised to contact the ACCC on 1300 302 502.

Chamber Vouchers Program - If you are interested in registering your business, so that our vouchers can be redeemed in your store contact Bek it's **FREE** for our members. Phone 9734 4817 or email admin@colliechamber.asn.au

Bek's Blog

With the year closing fast the Chamber will be sending out forms for advertising in next year's directory, so if you would like changes to your advert or want to just repeat last year's please contact me.

Contact Bek @ the Chamber. Tel. (08)9734 4817 or email admin@collichamber.asn.au

Also membership payment was due by 30th September 2011

CHAMBER EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee of the Collie Chamber of Commerce & Industry normally meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. The following dates are for the next two months;

WEDNESDAY December 7th (early for Christmas!) – Collie Ridge Motel, 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY January 11th – Collie Ridge Motel, 6.00pm

Please note that these dates and the venue are subject to change. All members of the Collie Chamber are most welcome to attend the meetings. Call either Richard or Bek at the Chamber office to discuss.

Collie Chamber Christmas Treasure Hunt

Started in the Collie Mail Thursday 1/12/11 and 8/12/11
It will finish COB Wednesday 14/12/11.

Collie Lions Christmas Pageant

Roads Close @ 5.30pm

Markets will be there,

Santa, The Drippy Dragon Show.

Pageant Floats set up @ 6.00pm.

The parade starts and the Garden Centre.

The pageant starts @ 6.30pm.

The bands are Junkadelic (Percussion with junk) 8pm

Sisters Doll (Locals) 8.45pm

Hope to see you there!

Come and support our local parade.

A Grant for non-farm small business

This is to advise of a new grant, available to non-farm small businesses in our area.

This grant is aimed at increasing the resilience and capacity of eligible businesses to withstand the impact of future dry seasons. The Minister's press release about the funding is available at:
<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/ByPortfolio.aspx?ItemId=146392&search=&admin=&minister=&portfolio=Small+Business®ion=>

Preference is being given in the 2011 Scheme to eligible businesses that weren't assisted under the 2010 Dry Season Assistance Scheme.

For more information contact the Small Business Centre on 9791 2666.

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

These hours have now been approved by The Collie Shire and the Department of Commerce's approval

Some variations of the WA Department of Commerce Christmas trading hours and hours to accommodate trade mid week in December, additional to current general trading hours in place in Shire of Collie (*note general trading hours are optional*).

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|--|
| Sunday | 11 th Dec | 10 am – 5 pm |
| Monday | 12 th Dec | 8 am – 7 pm |
| Tuesday | 13 th Dec | 8 am – 7 pm |
| Wednesday | 14 th Dec | 8 am – 7 pm |
| Thursday | 15 th Dec | 8 am – 9 pm |
| Friday | 16 th Dec | 8 am – 9 pm (Street Pageant) |
| Saturday | 17 th Dec | 8 am – 5 pm |
| Sunday | 18 th Dec | 8 am – 5 pm |
| Monday | 19 th Dec | 8 am – 7 pm |
| Tuesday | 20 th Dec | 8 am – 7 pm |
| Wednesday | 21 st Dec | 8 am – 7 pm |
| Thurs | 22 nd Dec | 8 am – 9 pm |
| Friday | 23 rd Dec | 8 am – 9 pm |
| Saturday | 24 th Dec | 7 am - 5 pm |
| Sunday | 25 th Dec | CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY |
| Monday | 26 th Dec | CLOSED BOXING DAY |
| Tuesday | 27 th Dec | 8 am – 5 pm - (public holiday – optional) |

Small Business Courses – Held in Bunbury

| Wed 30 Nov 2011 | Time | Workshop Title |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| | 9:30am to 3:30pm | Tax Dynamics Demystifying Your Tax for Small Business |
| | 6:00pm to 8:00pm | Workwise Update on Work Health and Safety Act |
| Wed 7 Dec 2011 | Time | Workshop Title |
| | 9:00am to 12:00pm | Attraction Marketing... the Secrets to Marketing Success |

If you require more information on any of the sessions please go to our website at <http://www.sbcbw.asn.au>

WAGELINE WATCH

Are you a sole trader or partnership?

Then this information applies to your business.

Can my employees cash out their annual leave?

Under employment law an employer and employee may agree in writing to cash out annual leave under limited circumstances. The ability to cash out annual leave generally only applies to employers and employees who are **not** covered by an award or agreement e.g. employees covered by the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act*.

An employer and employee who are covered by an award or agreement may only cash out annual leave if the award or agreement expressly allows it.

Cashing out arrangements **must** comply with the following conditions:

- only 50% of an employee's annual leave entitlement can be cashed out in any one year of service, and it can only be cashed out at the end of that year.
- the employee must be given a benefit instead of and equal to their annual leave entitlement (e.g. cash).
- Cashing out annual leave cannot be a condition of a person's employment.
- an employer cannot require an employee to cash out annual leave or apply undue pressure or influence on the employee to cash out their annual leave.
- each occasion to cash out annual leave must be in writing.

If you have any questions, or to simply make sure you're doing the right thing, **call Wageline on 1300 655 266.**

Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Australians with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods --merchandise that has been produced at the expense of Australian labor.

This year will be different. This year Australians will give the gift of genuine concern for other Australians. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by Australian hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small owned detail shops & car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates. For the Gardeners on your list - how about some lovely healthy pot plants or plants for the garden or even a gift certificate from the local lawnmowing man.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down the Panasonic of a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. If your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local cafe. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the Australian working guy?

What about a gift certificate from a local home handyman for some chores to be done around the home?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mum? Mum would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

Someone's computer could use a tune-up, & I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up & running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool & knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, & pottery & beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. How about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre.

Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another 10,000 Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a \$5.00 string of light, about 50 cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks burn, leave the postman, garbo or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining Australian pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about Australia, encouraging our small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. When we care about other Australians, we care about our communities, & the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. **THIS is the new Australian Christmas.**

SCAMWATCH

The 12 scams of Christmas

SCAMwatch is advising consumers to watch out for this year's 12 scams of Christmas. Scams occur all year round but scammers prey on people's generosity and vulnerabilities at this time of year.

1. Holiday accommodation scams

Time for a holiday? Whether you're relaxing in Australia or travelling overseas this festive season, scammers may try to get hold of your money and personal details. Look out for fake accommodation vouchers, scam travel clubs and scammers asking you to pay upfront deposits for properties which aren't actually available for rent.

Protect yourself

- Always check travel offers are legitimate before you sign up, search the wording of the offer or the company name on the web as many scams can be identified this way.
- Before buying holiday or accommodation vouchers check with the hotel that they are genuine and will be honoured during the period that you intend on using them.
- Never provide your credit card details and other personal information to someone you don't know or trust.

2. Flight booking scams

Scammers set up fake websites which look genuine and make you believe you are purchasing an authentic flight ticket. When you arrive at the airport you may find your booking was a fake.

Protect yourself

- Always book flights through a legitimate travel agent, airline, flight booking or travel website.
- Be cautious when deciding to purchase very cheap airfares – if it looks too good to be true it may be a scam.
- Check that the ABN quoted on a flight booking website is genuinely registered to the trader named on the site. You can look up an ABN on the [Australian Government's business.gov.au website](http://australian.gov.au/business.gov.au).

3. Charity scams

At Christmas many legitimate charities appeal for donations of money, food, clothing and children's gifts. Unfortunately scammers also try to get your money by camouflaging themselves as genuine charities.

Protect yourself

- Beware that scam charity emails and websites may use official-looking logos and words which make them look genuine. Always check that a website is legitimate before donating.
- Approach legitimate charity organisations directly to make a donation or offer support.
- Don't rely on any phone number or website address given by the person who first called, visited or emailed you. Independently search for the charity name online as many scams can be identified this way.

4. Online shopping scams

Found that perfect gift online? Beware, scammers post fake classified ads, auction listings, and run bogus websites. If you get caught by a scammer you will not only lose your money but will also never receive the item you were trying to purchase!

Protect yourself

- Be cautious if the advertised price of an item online looks unusually low. Scam ads quote goods at much lower prices than similar items on the same or other sites.
- Avoid any arrangement with a stranger that asks for up-front payment via money order or international wire transfer. Scammers will ask you to pay outside of the website's official payment systems.
- Beware, some scammers will send scam emails which appear to be from official payment companies requesting payment, others will direct you to fake payment websites which look genuine but have a different URL.
- Be especially cautious when buying pets and pedigree puppies, smartphones and tablet devices, horses and saddles, motor bikes, cars and boats. These are common scam targets.

5. Parcel delivery scams

Australians are predicted to send and receive millions of parcels at Christmas time. If you are expecting a parcel from family or friends, it's important to be aware of scams involving parcel collection. Scammers may call or email pretending to be from a logistics or parcel delivery service such as Australia Post, claiming that a non-existent parcel could not be delivered to you. They will offer to redeliver the parcel in exchange for a fee and may also ask for personal details.

Protect yourself

- If you are in doubt about the authenticity of a parcel delivery call or email, don't commit to anything. Call the company directly using their official customer service number to verify that it is genuine. Never use contact details provided by the caller or in an email.
- If you think you have provided your banking or credit card details to a scammer contact your bank or financial institution immediately.

6. Social media gift voucher and free product scams

Gift vouchers make handy presents when someone is hard to buy for, but always buy them from an official source to avoid being scammed. Recent scams have involved fake gift vouchers and "free products" being offered via social networking sites. Scam offers will ask victims to give personal details via survey in return for vouchers and products which either never arrive or are not honoured.

Protect yourself

- Never click on suspicious links on social networking sites – even if they are from your friends. Remember if an offer seems too good to be true it probably is!
- Be very wary when filling in surveys linked to via social networking posts and pages. Scammers commonly use these surveys to steal your valuable personal information.
- If in doubt about the authenticity of a free offer always contact the company on their official customer service number to verify that it is genuine. You can also search the internet using the exact wording of the offer as many social media scams can be identified this way.
- If you think you have provided your banking or credit card details to a scammer contact your bank or financial institution immediately.

7. Door-to-door scams

Lots of legitimate traders sell products and services door-to-door over the holiday season. Unfortunately scammers also approach their victims this way trying to sell poor quality products that don't do what is promised. If you fall victim, you will not get value for your money and money-back guarantees will turn out to be useless.

Protect yourself

- If someone comes to your door, ask to see their identification. You do not have to let them in, and they must leave if you ask them to.
- Do not agree to offers or deals straight away: tell the person that you are not interested or that you want to get some independent advice before making a decision.
- Carry out a web search on the trader to see if there are other consumers who have commented on the quality of their product or service.

8. Telephone scams

If you are taking time off work over the Christmas and New Year period, you may find you receive scam calls on your home landline telephone. These scams have been prominent over 2011 with scam callers claiming that your computer is infected with a virus, offering fake government grants/compensation or seeking bank details in order to process a bank fee or tax refund.

Protect yourself

- Be cautious if you are contacted out of the blue by someone claiming to be from a government department, a business or private organisation requesting personal information or payment for various services or fees. If you're not sure that a call is a scam you can check by independently using official contact details, never use phone numbers or email addresses provided by the caller.
- NEVER provide or confirm your personal, credit card or online account details over the phone unless you made the call using details you found yourself and you trust the other party.

9. Christmas e-card scams

At this time of year it's not uncommon to be sent emails containing links to Christmas e-cards. Whilst these emails often come from colleagues, friends and family, they may have unknowingly forwarded on attachments containing hidden malware or links scam websites. The emails may contain animations, pictures, videos or links which when opened, download malicious software onto you're your machine. Malware can be used to steal sensitive personal information stored on the computer or to record your keystrokes when you enter passwords online.

Protect yourself

- Never open unsolicited emails, delete them immediately!
- As fun as they may look, exercise caution when opening e-cards even if they've come from someone you know. Never click on any links or open any attachments in these emails.
- Keep your computer updated with the latest anti-virus and anti-spy ware software. Also, use a good firewall.

10. Romance scams

Online dating scams are very common and last year cost Australians more than \$15 million. If you are looking for that special someone online be cautious. Scammers post fake profiles on legitimate online dating websites and will give various excuses to ask you to send them money via international wire transfer.

Protect yourself

- Be wary of anyone who you have not personally met who asks you to send them money, gifts or your banking and credit card details.
- Be very careful about how much personal information you share on social network and dating sites.

11. Weight loss Scams

Many of us make resolutions to lose weight over the Summer holidays, but watch out for scammers offering 'miracle' weight loss pills and potions. These scams may promise weight loss for little or no effort or may involve unusual or restrictive diets, 'revolutionary' exercise or fat-busting devices, or products such as pills, patches, or creams. Also watch out for 'free trials' that may sign you up to unexpected payments.

Protect yourself

- Remember, there are no magic pills for rapid weight loss, instead speak with your GP about healthy and safe weight loss options.
- Be very careful about offers for medicines, supplements or other treatments: always seek the advice of your health care professional.

12. Lottery scams

There are many legitimate lottery jackpots, competitions and sweepstakes throughout the festive season, however lottery scams also circulate at this time of year. These scams will often use the names of legitimate overseas lotteries or carry the name of a well known company, event or person. You will usually be asked to pay various ongoing fees to release your winnings but you will lose all the money you pay and won't receive anything in return.

Protect yourself

- If you receive a letter, email or SMS out of the blue claiming you have won a lottery which you never entered it's most likely a scam – ignore it.
- Ask yourself why you are being asked to pay fees when these could come out of the winnings. Genuine lotteries don't operate this way.

Report

You can report scams to the ACCC via the [report a scam](#) page on SCAMwatch or by calling 1300 795 995.

Stay one step ahead of scammers, follow @SCAMwatch_gov on Twitter or visit http://twitter.com/SCAMwatch_gov.

Regional airports share \$14m for improvements

Portfolio: Transport, Regional Development, Lands- Regional Airport Development Scheme grants available for 2012-13 and 2013-14

Regional aviation facilities across Western Australia will continue to benefit from the Regional Airport Development Scheme (RADS), with the announcement of almost \$14million in grants for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Transport Minister Troy Buswell said the grants would comprise \$10million from the Royalties for Regions program and \$3.8million from RADS. "This funding demonstrates the State Government's ongoing commitment to ensuring regional airports are developed and maintained to support communities, businesses and tourism," Mr Buswell said. "Since RADS was introduced in 1997, nearly 150 regional airports have received funding for infrastructure upgrades, maintenance programs and studies.

"In the 2011-12 funding round, more than \$2.5million was provided to airports at Albany, Busselton and Esperance to establish passenger security screening facilities, ensuring the airports complied with recent changes to Federal Government legislation regarding security screening." Regional Development and Lands Minister Brendon Grylls said Royalties for Regions provided RADS with a significant boost which enabled a wider scope of projects.

Community members are encouraged to approach their local authority if they have a proposal to improve their local airport. Owners and operators of existing or proposed publicly accessible airports are eligible to apply for funding in 2012-13.

Fact File

- **Applications open December 14, 2011 and close January 27, 2012**
- **An information brochure and application forms can be found at <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/rads>**

Transport Minister's office - 9213 6900 or Regional Development and Lands Minister's office - 9213 7000